

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

**Minutes of Meeting
August 24, 2015**

PRESENT: David 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: Christopher Coleman, Assistant Town Manager, Town of Needham
Ross Donald, Town Meeting Member
Connie Kaufman, YMCA Board
Jo-Anne Ochalla, Community Center of Needham
Joshua Solomon, YMCA Board Member

Mr. DiCicco called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM in the Selectmen's Chambers at Town Hall.

1. **Minutes of Meeting – August 10, 2015:** Mrs. Chaston made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of August 10, 2015. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gerstel, and the minutes were approved unanimously.
2. **Director's Report:** The Commission reviewed the written report.
3. **Program Report:** The Commission reviewed the written report.
4. **Discussion Items**
 - A. **Rosemary Pool Design:** Mrs. Chaston and Mr. Gerstel held a "Meet the Commissioner" at Rosemary Pool on August 19th to allow community members to ask questions and give ideas for the new Rosemary Pool design. Mrs. Chaston gave a synopsis of the questions that were raised and comments given. Questions were asked about the size of the pool, how "green" the project will be, the timeline, and comments were made to keep the long lap lanes, water walking lanes, zero-depth entry, have more programming for pre-teens, add a slide, have a natural pool with natural filtration, increase accessibility, and have more food choices. Ms. Carey was also in attendance and stated that most of the people were lap swimmers or water walkers who like that the lanes are available during all open hours, and not just at restricted times. Many compliments were paid to the current and former staff for being very friendly and responsive. Mr. DiCicco will check his schedule about offering another "Meet the Commissioner" before the pool closes for the season. Mr. DiCicco asked what they could expect at the PPBC meeting

tonight. Ms. Carey said BH+A will solicit what the Commission thinks is important for the project, concepts will be shown, but they are to solicit feedback and not to design the pool. The timeline for the project will also be reviewed. Mr. Retzky stated it is very important for the timeline to be followed and that the Commission must be ready to make decisions in a timely fashion so as not to hold things up. Mr. Toolan reviewed the Commission's goals, as he will re-state them at the PPBC meeting.

- B. School Feasibility Study:** Ms. Carey stated that the PPBC would be continuing its discussion on the Hillside project at their meeting tonight.
- C. Newman/Eastman Projects Update:** Ms. Carey noted that the project remains on schedule. Mrs. Chaston raised the concern on what would happen when the Newman School opens with the projects. Ms. Carey stated that the fencing will remain, children would still have access to the playground and basketball court, and the fencing by the preschool will be moved back to provide access to the building.
- D. Mills Field Project Update:** Ms. Carey stated that the contract was now out to bid. Neighbors were supportive of park activities, but raised concerns at the Planning Board meeting related to the speed of vehicles cutting through their neighborhood. Those issues will be reviewed by the Traffic Management Advisory Committee. Parking spaces will be four feet into the park instead of eight feet. Trees will be replaced one to one.
- E. Update from Board of Selectmen: Goals, Projects:** Mr. DiCicco, Mr. Toolan and Ms. Carey met with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of Selectmen, and the Town Manager. The Selectmen noted their support for the Rosemary Pool project, but are concerned with the timeline for the Rosemary Pool project, if too many options remain under discussion. The Selectmen are reviewing policies related to food trucks, and are gathering information on how food trucks might help with some events at parks. . The Selectmen are undertaking a review of water bubblers in outdoor areas, including parks. They are also considering replacing some with water fillers. The Selectmen also noted a concern about increased graffiti on High Rock. Town staff are reviewing if there are options for removing it.
- F. Fall Field Scheduling:** Ms. Carey stated that the fall field schedule was now out, and all user groups now have their schedules.

5. Action Items:

- A. Special Event Request –Scott Jacobson Memorial:** Erin Jacobson has requested permission to hold a memorial service to honor her husband at Walker-Gordon field on September 19th, 2015 at 5:00pm, including the

spreading of his ashes at the park where he played softball for many years. Ms. Carey said that the time should not conflict with Soccer Club games. The Health Department has stated there are no health risks, and the Town Manager has no objections. Mr. Toolan made a motion to approve the request of Erin Jacobson to hold a memorial service and spread the ashes of her late husband at Walker-Gordon field on September 19th, 2015. The motion was seconded by Mr. Retzky and approved.

B. Appoint Rosemary Pool Design Advisory Committee: The Commission discussed the nominees for the Rosemary Pool Design Advisory Committee. Each Commissioner selected their top choices and then the top choices from that were selected. Mr. Toolan made a motion to recommend Andrew Allen, Carolyn Day Reulbach, Tom Keating, and Don Leathe as at large members to the Rosemary Pool Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Retzky and approved unanimously. Mr. Gerstel and Mr. Toolan will co-chair the advisory committee. Ms. Carey will notify the people who were appointed and will also invite those not chosen to remain involved in the process. .

6. Topics for Future Agendas: Mr. DiCicco noted that the Joint Field Scheduling Policy needs to be reviewed.

7. Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Toolan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 PM. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chaston and the meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn G. Fink, CPRP
Assistant Director