

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

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**July 11, 2008**

*Background notes for Monday, July 14<sup>th</sup>  
Park and Recreation Commission Agenda*

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**NATIONAL CITIZEN SURVEY: NEEDHAM**

The Town has just completed an initial statistical survey of resident opinions on Town services and perceptions of the community. I've included an excerpt in the meeting packet for your review and have a copy of the full report for anyone that would like to read it.

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**NEEDHAM CENTER STUDY**

I attended the June public meeting on the proposals being developed on the Needham Center Study. There have been two prior public meetings held on the same evenings of Park and Recreation meetings, so I wasn't able to attend those. This meeting was primarily presentation of concepts and handling questions from the audience. The major conflict seems to be the balance between making the downtown friendly for pedestrians vs. accommodating vehicles for parking. Some people felt that too much emphasis was placed on vehicles rather than people. I've included two documents in your packet that were handed out that night.

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**SUMMER UPDATE**

Everything is up and running now. We are short two lifeguards on the pool staff, but the schedule is working out OK for now.

The programs went well during the first two weeks, and each received some "raving fans" – participants, parents, the summer supervisors and Karen! The pool staff had a rocky beginning, of course, but got some extra maintenance work done that there isn't normally time to have, and they were ready to welcome people back on June 30<sup>th</sup>. We've lost some regulars, but have many new patrons, and have had very few complaints. Nikki and Nicole are still having very busy days in the office. They are just about done with Session 2 swim lesson registration, so that leaves only one more of those. The programs enter into Week 4 next week, which is hard to believe!

There will be some paving done at Mitchell and Hillside playground areas this summer. We have two programs at Mitchell, and the work is anticipated to start there on July 14<sup>th</sup>, so parents of those program participants have been notified, and the staff will work around the brief nuisance. The work is an overlay project, so it's not lengthy and does not require lots of demolition and grading.

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### **TOWN HALL SUMMER HOURS**

Just a reminder...from the Week of July 7<sup>th</sup> through the Week of August 25<sup>th</sup>, Town Hall will have regular business hours on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. On Tuesdays, Town Hall will be open from 8:00 AM through 7:30 PM and on Fridays will be open from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM.

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### **KEVIN YOUKLIS "HITS FOR KIDS"**

This organization has been attempting to get a permit through the Selectmen's Office for an event at Memorial Park or DeFazio Park since the early spring, but was told by Park and Recreation that nothing would be available for a new large special event in 2008. They've now submitted a Special Event Request for a September Saturday at Newman. I would recommend not approving any event for 2008 at any site, to allow all the fall groups the flexibility they need during this construction period. This might be a nice fall event in 2009, if more is known about it than what has been provided.

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### **TRAILS MASTER PLAN DRAFT**

A draft has been sent electronically to all Commission members and will be discussed with Trails Committee Chair Lisa Standley at the Commission meeting.

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