

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

August 29, 2008

*Background notes for Tuesday, September 2nd
Park and Recreation Commission Agenda*

MEETING LOCATION

Due to the Monday holiday and other conflicts next week, the Commission meeting is being held on Tuesday, September 2nd at the Broadmeadow Media Center, located on the right of the school lobby.

OFFICE STAFF

Since the four of us take minimal time off during the summer, we are all trying to squeeze in some time off. Karen is off for two weeks, so she will not be at the Commission meeting, and I will take the minutes of the meeting. Nikki and Nicole both have some days off coming. I will also be at the New England Parks Association conference on Cape Cod from September 8-10.

GEOCACHING

Mr. Dollase and Mr. Nadler have met with the group requesting night geocaching at the Town Forest and will recommend a trial permit for Saturday evenings, only. This topic will be on the agenda as an action item.

TRAILS MASTER PLAN

I'm going to step out of the Commission meeting for a few minutes to go over to the School Committee meeting being held in the Broadmeadow Performance Center. They are voting on their endorsement of the plan.

VIETNAM MEMORIAL WALL

The Memorial Park Trustees are working on arrangements to bring the traveling museum and replica wall to Memorial Park, in honor of Vietnam veterans. At this time, it appears the wall would arrive and be set up on Wednesday, October 29th, be on display for the following 4 days, and be taken down on Monday, November 3rd. The logistics for this event are extensive, so it will take many people to bring this important display to the Town.

ROSEMARY POOL

Today is the final day of the season at the Pool. Pool Supervisor Steve Crimlisk has done a great job coordinating all the closing projects as the number of staff people has continued to dwindle to the bare minimum needed to operate the facility safely. I'm already working on putting together projects that need to be done prior to re-opening next June.

On such a beautiful day, it's hard to believe that Mississippi and Louisiana are remembering the 4th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina today as they prepare to evacuate for another hurricane.

SYNTHETIC TURF

The first two weeks of field use at Memorial Park has basically gone well. There is plenty still to do before the first night game on September 5th...a Needham High Boys Soccer game. The following Friday night will feature the first football game, and likely some kind of "grand re-opening celebration" still being planned by the Needham Sports Council. The private line painter will be painting the letter "N" in the center of the field as a tribute to the High School teams.

I'll be meeting with the Needham Soccer Club coaches next Wednesday to review important rules related to using synthetic turf. I'll also hope to meet with the Needham Junior Football coaches, and I'm waiting to see if arrangements are being made to meet with the High School coaches.

The lights at Memorial Park will initially be run off a generator, as NSTAR still needs to complete the approval process for the electrical connection. The lights will be tested on September 3rd, along with the scoreboard that is used with the multi-purpose field.

CLAXTON PLAYGROUND

The Exchange Club will be returning to Claxton for the second year in a row to do some additional work in the playground area. The two grills are being replaced with new grills in a more appropriate and safe location in the "tot lot" area. The handicap accessible path will be revitalized to the original climbing structure, and it will be extended to the new swings. Two small additional play features will be added.

CAMP PROPERTY DESIGN CONCEPTS

The various student concepts for the camp property are combined into one report and has been sent to the Commission members with this meeting packet. The presentation by the students will be held at the September 22nd meeting.
