

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION TOWN OF NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Minutes of Meeting August 11, 2008

PRESENT: Cynthia J. Chaston, Chairman
Brian S. Nadler, Vice Chair
William R. Dermody, Member
Christopher R. Dollase, Member
Philip V. Robey, Member
Patricia M. Carey, Director
Karen A. Peirce, Assistant Director

GUESTS: Bob Cohen, Resident

The meeting convened at 6:30PM in the Selectmen's Meeting room located in the Town Hall.

- 1. Minutes of July 14, 2008 Meeting:** Mr. Dermody made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2008 meeting. Mr. Nadler seconded the motion and the motion was approved

Minutes of Re-Organization Meeting, July 14, 2008 Meeting: Mr. Dermody made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2008 Re-Organization meeting. Mr. Nadler seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Minutes of the July 14, 2008 Executive Session: Mr. Dermody made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2008 Executive Session. Mr. Dollase seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Minutes of the July 28, 2008 Meeting: Mr. Nadler made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 28, 2008 meeting. Mr. Dollase seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

- 2. Financial Report:** Ms Carey presented the final fiscal year 2008 June Financial Report. Mr. Dermody asked about the amount for the Claxton Field lights. Researching field lights and a new meter is on Ms. Carey's long term project list. Since the lights are currently all on one meter it is hard to distinguish the lights from the energy use for the building and it is not easy to split the service. A new lighting system can track use and provide more energy efficient lighting. Mr. Robey made a motion to approve the 2008 fiscal year Financial Report. Mr. Nadler seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

- 3. Correspondence:**
 - A. None Presented**

- 4. Assistant Director's Report:** Ms. Peirce reported that this is the final week of programs. Program end-of-season evaluations, reports and clean up will be finalized this week. It has been a very successful summer. The supervisors and directors have done a great job. Program highlight was the Sports and Outdoor Living Field day help at Ridge Hill last week.

Through the efforts of the Program supervisors Scott Lennon and Jeff Rudberg over \$1000 was raised to benefit the Travis Roy Foundation. The competition commenced with 2 participants winning the privilege of shaving the two supervisors' heads. The Fall Brochure is completed. Last week the Volunteer Appreciation party was held at Cricket field. Approximately 40 out of 203 volunteers attended. Thursday August 14th is the last Arts in the Parks concert featuring the Reminisants. The pool is scheduled to close on August 29th. The Family Fun Nights have been very successful with rockets, volcanos and canoe rides. Swimming lessons have run very smoothly. The 3rd session of lessons has had the most children registered out of all 3 sessions.

5. Discussion Items

A. **Director's Report:** Ms. Carey reported that today she toured summer programs, Rosemary Pool and park areas with Selectman Denise Garlick and Town Manager Assistant Sandy Cincotta. They visited Claxton Field, landfill area at the RTS, Nike Site, Ridge Hill, DPW and Reservoir, DeFazio Park, Pollard Middle School, Memorial Park, Rosemary Pool, Cricket Field, Mills Field and the Eliot School. She noted it took many hours but it was well worth the time and effort for them to see the many facets of Park and Recreation. Ms. Carey is working with the neighbors from Greendale Ave. A goal of the neighbors would be for the Town to purchase 2 properties on Greendale Ave. to connect to Cutler Park for passive recreational purposes. Ms. Carey noted the Park and Recreation Commission could apply for CPC funds to purchase the properties. Mrs. Chaston asked that the Greendale Ave. property discussion be put on the agenda for a future meeting.

B. **Rosemary Pool:** Ms. Carey indicated a short term dilemma at the Rosemary Pool. Many of the pool staff members need to leave on Wednesday, August 27 to return to school. Mr. Nadler made a motion to change the pool closing date from August 29 to August 27, 2008. Mr. Dollase seconded the motion. Mr. Dermody asked to amend the motion to give the Director of Park and Recreation the discretion of closing on August 27th if she deemed it necessary. Mr. Dollase seconded the amended motion and the motion was approved. Both Mr. Nadler and Mr. Dermody offered to help with closing duties on August 29th. Ms. Carey presented 1998 Rosemary Pool recommendations from CBI Consulting and included the 2008 update on the projects that had been recommended. Ms. Carey noted approximately \$70,000 is left for another study of the pool. Mr. Nadler suggested the Commission work with the Conservation Commission for a future study of the pool. Mr. Nadler also suggested opening the pool to Town Meeting members to highlight the facility and all the improvements that have been made over the last 10 years. Mr. Robey suggested opening the pool in June 2009 for the Town residents and Town Meeting members to see the facility. Discussion of an open day for the Town Meeting members and residents will be put on a future agenda.

C. **Field Construction Update:** The DPW staff will begin snow fencing the area that has been hydroseeded at Memorial Park. The construction fencing will be and the scoreboard will be installed this. Once the weather improves the field will be lined. The High School football team begins practice on the field on August 18th. The field lights are not connected yet so the first few games at

Memorial Park will be run on a generator. Sod will be installed the end of August or beginning of September. Cement bollards will be placed near the Pickering Street entrance to limit vehicle access but will allow pedestrian access. Ms. Carey announced the Sports Council will fund the DeFazio South phase of the project to have it all completed even though they are still a little short on the funding needed. Ms. Carey suggested putting up signs with a wish list of projects that need funding to finish off the DeFazio Park renovation. Overall both field renovation projects are progressing very well.

D. Field Scheduling Update: Ms. Carey is working on finalizing the fall field schedule packet. There are a few concerns but High School softball is a concern that should be revisited on the agenda at a future meeting. Ms. Carey and Mr. Nadler will continue to work on the long term scheduling issues.

E. Synthetic Turf: The Needham High School Football team will be the first team to practice and play a game at the newly renovated Memorial Park synthetic turf field. Ms. Carey has been meeting with members of the Board of Health and the Health Department staff to help them understand the synthetic turf installed in Needham along with staff from the High School including the Assistant Principal Tamatha Bibbo, Athletic Trainer Ori Rochbert, some of the High School coaches, Parks and Forestry Superintendent Lance Remsen, Assistant Parks and Forestry Superintendent Kevin Naughton, and Mark Miskin from the Needham Soccer Club to discuss the use of the synthetic turf. They recommend signage will be posted in the future in an educational tone to protect the fields. Tarps will be needed to protect the field on High School graduation day and the 3rd of July fireworks celebration. At this time it is not clear who will pay for the High School Athletic teams to use the lights. Light fees will be discussed at a future meeting.

It was suggested that the Park and Recreation Commission have a joint meeting with the Memorial Park Trustees to discuss rules for the fields.

F. Future Capital Projects: Ms. Carey asked the Commissioners what projects they would like to highlight as capital projects. Ms. Carey mentioned that she has been asked to attend the Saturday budget hearing in the fall with the Parks and Forestry Department. There was some discussion about keeping the Cricket building renovation project on the Capital request list but in a revised form.

G. Other Business: None Presented.

6. Action Items:

A. Ratify Fall Program Fees: The Fall Program Fees were presented by the Director and Assistant Director. Mr. Dollase made a motion to approve the Fall Program fees as presented by the Director and Assistant Director. Mr. Nadler seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

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7. **Adjournment:** Mr. Dollase made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20PM. Mr. Dermody seconded the motion and the motion was approved. The Commissioners left to attend the annual staff appreciation party at Rosemary Pool.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Peirce, CPRP, CTRS
Assistant Director