

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

**Minutes of the Field Summit
October 18, 2021**

PRESENT: Cynthia Chaston, Christopher Gerstel, Michelle Geddes, Bruce Williams, Dina Hannigan, John Gallello

STAFF: Stacey Mulroy, Fabien Desrouleaux, Kristen Wright

GUESTS: Mike Tobins, Eric Meyers, John Hrones, Denise Domnnski, John Kingston, Tyler Lechman, Dan Lee, Dan Levine

Ms. Chaston called the field summit to order at 7:30 PM.

1. Welcomes & Introductions

Ms. Chaston introduced the members of the Commission, the Chairman of the Memorial Park Trustees, and the Park and Recreation staff.

2. Head's Up Concussion Training

Ms. Mulroy introduced Hanna Burnet from the Public Health Department. Ms. Burnet presented an Article passed by the Board of Health regarding new Concussion requirements for organizations hosting youth sports within the Town of Needham on Town property. Ms. Burnett also presented the Head's Up Concussion program and the requirements for receiving future permits for fields.

Ms. Chaston and Ms. Mulroy thanked Ms. Burnett for her presentation.

3. Concerns from User Groups

A. Trash on Fields, Playgrounds, Parks, etc.

Ms. Mulroy discussed the issues that have been seen and the various attempts that have been made to curtail the trash issue. Mr. Gallello also discussed the trash pick-up schedule and the timing to help keep the barrels empty during the weekend and high traffic times.

B. Collaborating about sharing space, resources, and grouping programs

Ms. Mulroy discussed that sharing the outdoor spaces and working together is important now more than ever. Ms. Mulroy stated that while programs may be growing, the number of fields has not grown, and the space on the fields have not become bigger.

a. Orienteering, Canoeing & Outdoor Challenge Course

Ms. Domnnski from NHS Wellness discussed optimizing outdoor spaces for the residents of the Town

Ms. Chaston stated that since the pandemic, the demand for outdoor space from a number of organizations and residents looking to host events on Town property has increased drastically.

C. Dog Poop

Several members of user groups discussed the increase of dogs and dog poop on the athletic fields. Recommendations included additional signage, enforcement of violation fees, and more monitoring of the fields.

D. Communication of conflicts and Special Events sooner

Ms. Mulroy discussed that as Ms. Chaston stated earlier, there has been an increase of special event requests as well as the growth of different sports that have created more conflicts and demands of the field space. Ms. Mulroy stated that the Department is working diligently to improve the process and work on communication across the board.

Items 4 – 7 were discussed together.

The user groups and Ms. Mulroy discussed when registrations would open for future seasons.

8. Facility Projects

Ms. Mulroy discussed upcoming Capital Projects.

9. Safety Concerns

Ms. Mulroy discussed safety concerns at DeFazio in the parking lot throughout the week between drop off and pickup and the Greene's and Pickering area on Saturday and how we will be working together to address them.

10. Policies

A. Fees

The current fee schedule was discussed and the fact that they will likely increase soon.

B. Trash

Roller barrels on Memorial

Ms. Mulroy stated that roller barrels at Memorial need to be rolled to the parking lot at the end of the night so they can be emptied more regularly.

C. New Requirements

Ms. Mulroy stated that with Ms. Burnett's presentation earlier, concussion training will need be submitted prior to any Spring permits being issued.

11. Questions & Comments

None presented.

Ms. Geddes made a motion to approve the outdoor Halloween event to be held by Newman PTC in the Newman Lower Parking Lot on Saturday, October 30 from 11:00am – 7:00pm. The fee has been waived for this event. Mr. Williams seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.

12. Adjournment of Field Summit

Mr. Gerstel moved to adjourn the October 18, 2021 Field Summit at 8:30pm. Ms. Geddes seconded the motion and the summit adjourned at 8:30p

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Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Wright
Administrative Specialist