

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

**Minutes of Meeting
April 27, 2022**

PRESENT: Cynthia Chaston, Christopher Gerstel, Michelle Geddes, Dina Hannigan

STAFF: Stacey Mulroy, Fabien Desrouleaux, Kristen Wright

GUESTS: Adam Block, Andrew Baker, Andrew Pittman, Brad Mezquita, Bradley Molyneaux, Chris Cusson, Dan Lee, Ed Olsen, Josh Colon, Lindsay Page, Mike Kraft, Rich Sucher, Steve Deroian

Ms. Chaston called the meeting to order at 7:05PM remotely using Zoom. Ms. Chaston read a statement regarding public meeting process due to COVID-19.

1. Open Forum – Public Comment

None presented.

2. McLeod Field Discussion

Mr. Olsen reviewed the design presentation and discussed various improvements that can be implemented at McLeod field. Mr. Olsen discussed converting the layout of the field from baseball to softball. Mr. Mezquita discussed options with a re-design including grading, a pathway, and the preservation of the existing lacrosse wall. Mr. Olsen discussed fencing improvements and slabs for bleachers. Ms. Geddes asked about dugouts. Mr. Olsen stated that it was possible. The Commission also discussed outfield fencing, and if changing the orientation of the field was appropriate. Mr. Olsen and Mr. Mezquita stated that the orientation of the current field would still be appropriate for a softball layout and that the outfield fencing could be semi-permanent and easily taken down for maintenance work on the field. Resident Rich Sucher from Windfield Street discussed many of the improvements already raised by the Commission such as covered dugouts and bleachers, but also wanted to address storage. Other representatives from Needham Athletics and Needham Baseball and Softball also shared their support of the project and wanted to discuss the next steps of the process. Ms. Mulroy and Ms. Chaston discussed next steps. Ms. Mulroy stated they would host a public meeting to discuss design. The Commission discussed different funding sources for the construction of the project.

Ms. Chaston thanked Mr. Olsen and Mr. Mezquita for their presentation.

3. Chair's Update

No presented.

4. Director's Report

Ms. Mulroy reviewed the Director's Report.

Ms. Geddes asked about a cap on membership registrations. Ms. Mulroy stated that there is not cap but will be using two timeslots. Mr. Desrouleaux stated that both sessions can be attended. Ms. Chaston asked about walk-ins. Ms. Mulroy stated that 25% of spots are reserved for walk-ins and after 30 minutes, any unclaimed pre-registered spots will be released to walk-ins.

The Commission discussed back blading the parking lot every two weeks, the tennis court project on Town Meeting floor, and discussed how they would be setting up a maintenance plan for all other courts.

Ms. Mulroy stated that all park restrooms should be de-winterized by the following weekend.

5A. New Commissioner

Ms. Chaston stated that there are 6 applications to fill Mr. Williams seat on the Commission and that they will be interviewed by two members of the Select Board and 2 members of the Commission. Chris and Dina will be on the interview panel for the Commission.

5B. Capital Projects

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

5C. CPC

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

5D. Playground Priorities

The Commission reviewed the documents. Ms. Geddes discussed prioritization and wants to include a replacement for the Claxton playground.

5E. Facilities

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

5F. Action Park

The Commission discussed the report with Kate and noted that they have received a lot of requests. Ms. Chaston stated that a working group should be formed and that there has been a lot of interested expressed in the last 12 months.

The Commission discussed next steps and how this project, like all others the Commission oversees, is placed on the capital plan and balanced against other requests and projects within not only the Park and Recreation plan, but the Town's overall plan.

Ms. Chaston thanked residents again for both the presentation and the continued discussion around adding this type of facility.

6A. Special Event Approvals

Cub Scout Pack 8

Ms. Hannigan made a motion to approve the Rocket Day be held by Cub Pack 8 on Saturday, May 21 2022 from 8:00am – 1:00pm at the Claxton Quarry. The fee is waived. Mr. Gersetl seconded the motion and it passed 4-0.

Broadmeadow End of Year Event

Ms. Geddes made a motion to approve the End of Year Event be held by the Broadmeadow PTC on Thursday, June 16 from 5:00pm – 6:30pm at Broadmeadow 1-5 Playground with no fee. Ms. Hannigan seconded the motion and it passed 4-0.

6B. Meeting Minutes

March 28

Ms. Hannigan made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from March 28, 2022. Mr. Gerstel seconded the motion and it passed 3-0-1.

April 11

Ms. Geddes made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from April 11, 2022. Ms. Geddes seconded the motion and it passed 3-0-1.

7. Commission Reorganization

Ms. Hannigan nominated Mr. Gerstel to be the Chair of Park and Recreation and Ms. Geddes to be the Vice Chair of Park and Recreation for the 2022-2023 term. Ms. Chaston seconded the motion and the motion passed 4-0.

8. Topics for Future Meetings

- Playground priorities
- Storage Containers

9. Issues Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair within 48 hours

None presented

10. Next Meetings

The Commission decided to cancel the May 9th meeting as two members would be attending Town Meeting. The next meeting will be on Monday, May 23.

11. Adjournment of Business Meeting

Ms. Hannigan moved to adjourn the April 27, 2022, Park and Recreation Commission meeting at 9:24pm. Ms. Geddes seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 9:24pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Wright
Recording Secretary