

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

**Minutes of Meeting  
October 4, 2021**

**PRESENT:** Cynthia Chaston, Michelle Geddes, Bruce Williams

**ABSENT:** Christopher Gerstel, Dina Hannigan

**STAFF:** Stacey Mulroy, Fabien Desrouleaux, Kristen Wright

**GUESTS:** Steve Deroian, Steve Ferriera, Andrew Baker, Henry Ching

Ms. Chaston called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

**1. Open Forum – Public Comment**

None presented.

**2. Chair’s Update**

Ms. Chaston discussed that there will be Chair’s meeting scheduled on Thursday, October 7<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Chaston addressed the concerns that closed Memorial last week and stated that on Sunday morning the trash barrels were overflowing.

**3. Claxton Field Discussion**

Ms. Mulroy provided a summary of the meeting with resident Andrew Baker, the Director of DPW Carys Lustig, and herself on Friday.

Ms. Chaston stated that she is hopeful that a resolution will be determined at that meeting.

Resident Andrew Baker stated that at the meeting on Friday that it was clear that the problem is within the fact that the designer was not hired for 10 months and sees this as an opportunity to find a creative solution that works within the process but also moves the project forward. Mr. Williams asked to discuss what the next steps are. Mr. Baker stated that the next steps are to get input on the design and the cost for the construction. Mr. Desroian stated that it is a small project and should not require many resources. Ms. Chaston stated that all Town projects require a project champion and the bandwidth within the Town is limited, and also that the Commission will be more aware to ensure it doesn’t happen again and would like to move forward with the project. Mr. Desroian asked that if it was delayed would there be maintenance projects to keep Claxton in the best shape possible for the softball players. Ms. Mulroy stated that it would be maintained. Mr. Ferriera shared with the Commission how important this project is to him and his family and urged the Commission to do what they could to move the project forward so the girls didn’t have to continue to play on substandard fields at home.

Ms. Chaston thanked Mr. Baker, Mr. Desroian, Mr. Ferriera, and Mr. Ching for coming to speak to the Commission.

**4. Director's Report**

Ms. Mulroy reviewed the Director's report.

The Commission discussed the incident at Memorial Park and Ms. Mulroy stated that Athletic Director Dan Lee would be working with student athletes from the High School to talk to the middle school students about the importance of the fields and being accountable when your actions have consequences for others.

**5A. CPC**

Ms. Wright stated that there were no updates, and the next meeting is October 20.

**5B. Playgrounds & Facilities**

Ms. Mulroy stated that she was contacted by the Exchange Club about their day of service. The Commission discussed possible projects for them to complete this year.

**5C. Porta Potties & Bathrooms**

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

**5D. Capital Projects**

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

**5E. Trash Initiative**

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

**6A. Commission Goals & Responsibilities**

**Ms. Geddes made a motion to approve the goals and responsibilities as outlined and discussed at prior meetings. Mr. Williams seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.**

**6B. General Fund Fee Approvals**

Moved to next meeting.

**6C. Special Event Approvals**

Resident Alison Gleichman – Youth Birthday Party

**Ms. Geddes made a motion to approve the youth birthday party to be held by Resident Alison Gleichman in the Williams Parking Lot and playground on Monday, October 11 from 3:45pm – 5:00pm. The fee has been waived for this event. Mr. Williams seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.**

Resident Douglas Beyer – Youth Birthday Party

**Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the youth birthday party to be held by Resident Doug Beyer at Walker-Gordon outfield on Sunday, October 17 from 4:00pm – 6:00pm. The fee has been waived for this event. Ms. Geddes seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.**

Newman PTC – Outdoor Halloween Event

**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.**

Newman PTC – Outdoor Movie Night

**Ms. Geddes made a motion to defer to next meeting pending more information. Mr. Williams seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.**

Needham High School Student Council – Homecoming

**Ms. Geddes made a motion to approve the Homecoming event to be held by Needham High School Student Council in the Upper NHS Parking Lot, multipurpose field, and Tennis Courts on Friday, October 22 from 5:30pm – 10:00pm. NHS will contact the police and the Health Department to discuss a police detail and the use of food trucks at the event. The fee has been waived for this event. Mr. Williams seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.**

Sean D. Biggs Memorial Foundation – BIGGS 5K

**Ms. Geddes made a motion to defer to the next meeting. Mr. Williams seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.**

#### **5B. Meeting Minutes**

**Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from September 27, 2021. Ms. Geddes seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.**

#### **8. Topics for Future Meetings**

- Fees
- Agenda for Field Summit

#### **9. Issues Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair within 48 Hours**

No presented

#### **10. Next Meetings**

The Commission reviewed the next meeting dates.

#### **11. Adjournment of Business Meeting**

**Ms. Geddes moved to adjourn the October 4, 2021, Park and Recreation Commission meeting at 8:51pm. Mr. Williams seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 8:51pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Wright  
Administrative Specialist