

TOWN OF DEDHAM

Park & Recreation Department

*Dolan Recreation Center
269 Common Street
781-751-9250
Mucciaccio Pool
1 Recreation Road
Pool 781-461-5991*



*Robert Stanley
Park & Recreation Director
Debra Anderson
Assistant Dir. /Program Dir.
Tracey White
Administrative Assistant*

Board Meeting

March 12, 2018
7:00pm

Present:

James Maher – Chairman
Charles Dello Iacono
Salvatore Ledda
John Maida
Robert Stanley – Director
D. Anderson – Asst. Director
T. White – Administrative Assist.

Absent:

Jonathan Briggs

Public Comment

Chief of Police Michael D'Entremont and Selectman Mike Butler wanted to make the Commissioners aware of the position that the Drug Awareness Committee has taken in regard to the ballot question on whether to support the ban on marijuana retail shops in the town of Dedham. Election Day is Saturday, April 14, 2018.

Voting yes, is a vote to support the ban on retail marijuana, (which means NO marijuana shops)

Voting no, is a vote to allow retail marijuana shops in the town of Dedham.

Selectman Mike Butler stated that the ballot question is a bit confusing, so that is why he and the Chief have been attending meetings to share the concerns of their Committee. Chief Michael D'Entremont stated that one major concern is that our children will have more access to Marijuana, and since the Park & Recreation Department works with so many of the towns children it was important to share the information and to let the Commissioners know their position.

Cheif D'Entremont shared some of his worries, such as that with retail sales of marijuana there will be increased use in the area, and there is no way to judge level of impairment while driving vehicles. Westwood, Norwood and Walpole have already banned retail stores, in their communities. State laws will still allow growing and smoking marijuana, they are worried about these Pot Shops the state laws have not

figured out the regulations for retail pot shops. He said that the ban would not affect medical marijuana dispensaries. He stated that since it is still illegal under federal law, there are not many banks that want to do business with Pot Shops, which means that these stores are mostly cash stores, which can mean more chance of being robbed.

Minutes

February minutes were approved by the Commissioners, with a motion by S. Ledda and second by J. Maida voted unanimously, with a correction as stated by C. Dello Iacono that a question of the Gonzalez Field damage was not in the minutes. Minutes will be changed to include the question.

Director's Report

The town closing of buildings during snowstorms as is the case possible for tomorrow. The current policy is that if town hall is closed, all town facilities must be closed all day long. This can be an issue, such as last Thursday, because the storm was over by 10:00 am. Policy should be changed, to be decided on a storm by storm basis, half of the time it doesn't make sense – the weather and street conditions can clear by 3:00 pm or 6:00 pm at night, when most of the programs are held, and they don't always need to be cancelled.

The Dolan Center had some water, during the rain storm.

Concerned about the windows at the pool – they are very old, and are in need of replacing, the windows were not approved by the town manager, once again.

Gonzalez field - the pulley system for the nets are being looked at by RAD and Activitis as they have come down. The pulley system may have been installed incorrectly by RAD. Due to the upcoming snowstorm the poles may not be replaced this week, however they will be replaced RAD and the manufacturer are disagreeing about whose fault this issue is and that could delay the work from being done as quickly as we would like.

Capone Field improvements are being worked out with Dedham Youth Baseball, to see that they are all on the same page.

Gonzalez Field Concession stand there are some major concerns by Georgio Petruziello, about digging in the Gonzalez Field area because of possible contamination. Discussion as to how deep they have to dig for footings and G. Petruziello doesn't want to do something that may become an issue, it was suggested by J. Maida to check with builders who have built in that area.

The Capitol Improvement Recommendations, only two items were not approved by Town Manager, Jim Kerns, one was the safety Netting for Rustcraft, a discussion about \$35,000 not being a lot of money to spend on safety equipment, as compared to the overall town budget and safety should be paramount and the other was the removal of the tower for the bridge at the Pool.

The Town is looking at a town wide security system.

Finance Committee meeting was last Saturday and they asked the same usual

questions about how money is spent in the department. Finance Committee doesn't approve monies for staff to attend Conferences, C. Dello Iacono stated that the Director, Assist Director and Pool Director should attend meetings and conferences. Director stated that he recently attended a Conference that towns from all over the state attended – he paid for it himself. Town Manager would most likely be in favor of him attending conferences, but the Finance Committee does not, and did not think that was. After the last meeting there was some confusion with some of the permits, my Administrative Assistant,

T. White spent time fixing some of the scheduling issues.

S. Ledda made a motion to accept the Director Report, second by C. Dello Iacono, it was voted unanimously to accept the Director's report.

Assistant Director's Report

The Winter Festival was cancelled over February break because it was 72 degrees that day.

Life guarding class just finished – there were 9 participants and several re-certifications. Dance started last week – 76 participants.

Diving is starting – 12 participants.

Swim lessons starting this week – 93 started today.

Gymnastics – show is on Sunday April 8. This is the final session- 66 children (last year there were 50).

Soccer – new program to start in May. Have received rave reviews of the instructor.

Brought back the stroke clinic.

Have been working with the parent group in town and trying to introduce parents to all the programs.

A Girl Scout group will be using the Dolan Center once a month

Band Gig – a toddler music class, working with them to restart program

PathFinders programs are starting their Spring activities

Started registration in January for Summer programs

Rugby camp is a new program being run by same group that runs the Soccer tots program

Wrestling will have a spring Open Mat program

Jim Maher asked about a Judo program being run through department – D. Anderson stating she is talking with the person that wants to run the program and are working on it.

S. Ledda made a motion to accept the Assistant Director Report, second by J. Maida, and voted unanimously to accept the report.

Permits

None at this time

Arts in the Park Policy: Discussion and Vote

J. Maher explained how the policy was worked on, stating that he and Jonathan Briggs used the Town of Brookline's Arts in the Park policy as a template and they made

revisions to that policy and sent to Town Council for approval, J. Maher stated that Town Counsel came back with a policy with a different vision. Discussion about Town Counsel's recommendations, Commissioners were not pleased with the Board of Selectmen having decisions on Parks & Recreation land. The Selectman are the ones who can accept donations of art, however all agreed that it should be the Park and Recreation Department that accepts the donations. There is already one member of the Board of Selectmen on the Arts in the Park Committee since they were interested in being part of this process.

The Arts in the Park Policy only applies to the Parks and Recreation Department and would make the Board the only committee in town with a public arts policy. C. Dello Iacono made a motion to accept the Policy with removing the Section 5, step 5, second by S. Ledda all voted in the affirmative.

Town Counsel's Recommendation: Discussion and Vote

Town Counsel's investigation into the permitting process for field permits. A youth organization that a Commission member said had never submitted in a permit, went to Selectman and filed a complaint that the Parks and Recreation Commission is not holding a fair and open process.

J. Maher stated that Town Counsel's report made recommendations that we already do. All agreed that the Director should continue to meet with the youth organizations prior to the meeting. It was discussed that when the Director meets or speaks to youth programs prior to Permit meeting it all works. The Commission agreed that the pre-permit meeting discussions are part of the Director's job and he should continue this process, as it is part of his duties.

J. Maher stated that investigation cost the town \$10,000 S. Ledda noted that it was found that the Parks and Recreation Department was not found at fault. Discussion on how Director felt about the recommendations, he stated most he was fine with, however he had issues with tracking every field every day – this is very difficult to do, as things are always moving and changing. Moving the Permit meeting to December was difficult since a lot of programs have registrations until the end of January. Website posting of permits may be doable, however, he wasn't sure that he wants to be tied to that, as things may change and not able to change on the website.

J. Maida stated the P & R department has good working relationships with the Youth Programs, except for one.

C. Dello Iacono made a motion to take Town Counsel's Recommendations under advisement, S. Ledda second the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Old Business

S. Ledda stated he will reach out to G. Pettruziello and P. McQuire to try and get conversation moving in regard to the concession stand at Gonzalez

C. Dello Iacono stated that roads are getting very messy around town and was worried about roads and how they would impact the parade, would like to have JuJu Muccaccio come in to discuss the parade plans.

C. Dello Iacono asked about the Striar Property potential rental

J. Maher stated that he recently learned that it wasn't just using the property to store trucks, there is a proposal to bring in fill from roadwork, discussion on what was going to be brought in and if and when would it be removed. J. Maher wants to sit with others involved and get answers to these questions, such as, how many yards of fill are brought in and how much will be brought out. S. Ledda would like the Parks & Recreation Department to be able to make \$5,000 per/month on this and all members said they trust Joe Flanagan to do the right thing. It is being done as a permit process on a month to month basis, not a contract

New Business:

J. Maher asked if Sugrue Field has been inspected or evaluated since the winter with the possible damage due to a car driving on it. J. Maher said wants an outside person to inspect the field and certify that has not suffered any damage. If it gets inspected and passes – then the person who drove on field will be off the hook.

S. Ledda said he wants it to be duly noted that \$35,000 in safety measures for the parks weren't approved by the town and he finds that appalling.

J. Maida made a motion to adjourn at 9:35 pm, second by C. Dello Iacono, all voted in favor