

Parks & Recreation Department

*Dedham Recreation Center
269 Common Street
781-751-9250*

*Anthony Mucciaccio Pool
1 Recreation Road
781-461-5991*



*Robert Stanley
Director*

*Debra Anderson
Assistant & Program
Director*

*Tracey White
Administrative Assistant*

May 11, 2021

Present:

Lisa Moran - Chairwoman
Chuck Dello Iacono – Vice Chair
Alix O’Connell - Secretary
Jonathan Briggs
Lisa Farnham
Robert Stanley – Director
Tracey White – Assistant to the Director

Absent: Debra Anderson – Program Director

Chairman Moran opened the meeting by reading the Governors statement:

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic and State of Emergency, on March 12, 2020, Governor Baker issued an Executive Order Temporarily Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A sec. 20. Pursuant to the Order, public bodies are temporarily relieved from the Open Meeting Law’s requirement that meetings be held in public places, open and physically accessible to the public, so long as measures are taken to ensure public access to the bodies’ deliberations "through adequate, alternative means."

Attendance taken:

Chuck Dello Iacono stated present
Alix O’Connell stated present
Chairwoman Moran stated present

Jonathan Briggs stated present
Lisa Farnham stated present

Minutes

Motion to accept the Minutes of April 2021 by L. Farnham with a second by A. O’Connell

Chuck Dello Iacono voted yes
Alix O’Connell voted yes
Chairwoman Moran voted yes

Jonathan Briggs voted yes
Lisa Farnham voted yes

Manor Playground Presentation

Brandon Fliss stated that two years ago began the process to build a playground in the Manor neighborhood, at 96 Trenton Road.

He stated that approval and support has been given from all other Boards and seeking the approval of the Parks & Recreation Commissioners.

Chairwoman Moran asked what the timeline will be if it is approved at Town Meeting?

B. Fliss answered about twenty weeks

A. O'Connell asked about the cost of any maintenance, and the total cost of the project.

B. answered that the cost is roughly \$400,000

After volunteers and donations, it's about \$300,000 for the donated services and goods

DPW Director Joe Flanagan has said that the DPW would do all the prep work

Commissioner Farnum asked if they would be a bike rack that at the park.

B. Fliss replied that a bike rack is a phenomenal idea.

Commissioner Farnum asked what kind of ground would be

B. Fliss answered it would be Pour and Play surfaces

Commissioner J. Briggs added that the Parks and Recreation Master Plan states that there should be nature play at the parks, such as at the ECEC there is a butterfly garden and asked if there was any kind of nature play planned through signage or such

B. Fliss stated that there would be some things such as bird houses or butterfly gardens in the future, the neighborhood has done a full cleanup of that area

Commissioner Briggs asked if the second phase would have picnic tables and benches once the equipment and stuff gets put in.

B. Fliss stated there are places for benches and there are built in benches and benches to the boardwalk.

Commissioner O'Connell asked if there was a link somewhere that people could donate if they wanted to

B. Fliss answered that there is a Facebook, and the Manor neighborhood Association is a 504C3 so they can donate to the Manor neighborhood association

Commissioner Briggs asked about maintenance

Chairwoman and Moran stated the selectmen stated it would be about \$5000

Director Stanley answered that they had reached out to him and asked for cost of trash removal and maintenance on play structures, there is a cost (just not sure at this time) and there isn't really anything they can't handle and absorb into the budget it is another stop on Mondays and Fridays when it comes to the trash collection

B. Fliss stated that he has spoken to Jim MacDonald, and he stated that to take care of it will be done and everybody satisfaction.

Commissioner Dello Iacono stated he's really excited that something is happening with the abandoned piece of property and Activitas does a great job, and it looks really good, the only concern he has, is that he concerned about an MOU you with the Board of Selectmen and the Town Manager's office, he can't wait to see it come to fruition the only reason he brings it up when it comes to the cost and not having it the Parks & Recreation Budget.

Chairman Moran stated she said they have gone to all the boards, and everybody is in support and his asking if she could have a motion of support. Jon Briggs made a motion of support to the Manor Playground with a second by second by Alix O'Connell.

Discussion - Commissioner Dello Iacono asked if in this motion there some talk or discussion about an MOU between Parks & Recreation and the Board of Selectman should be.

Brandon Fliss stated that Selectmen MacDonald stated that it would be \$2500 a year.

Director Stanley stated if there is more other than picking up trash and maintenance of the playground equipment it could become more than that.

Brandon stated there are no caveats from conservation is there is not any green space that requires trimming he stated now there are trees and possibly once a year trimming

Selectmen McDonald entered the meeting and stated the Select Board has supported this article from step one he and Selectmen Sullivan feel there is a much-needed pocket park in the Manor and there should be no reservation from the Parks and Recreation Department commission that the town will not step forward and support us this is terrific and fantastic guy conservation and finance about and he does not feel there will be any issue at town meeting

Commissioner Della Iacono asked if there needed to be some type of language with a MOU between the Parks & Recreation Commission & the Select Board.

Selectmen MacDonald stated no

Commissioner O'Connell asked if they would still be a motion for an MOU?
Motion to add an MOU with the Board of Selectman with a second by Alix O'Connell

rollcall vote

Chuck Dello Iacono voted yes
Alix O'Connell voted yes
Chairwoman Moran voted yes

Jonathan Briggs voted yes
Lisa Farnham voted yes

Mini Pantry

Resident Sandra Sicard O'Connell asked about installing a Mini Pantry at Condon Park.

Commissioner O'Connell asked her to wait until next month, so that they can check with other Boards that need to have input on this project.

Commissioner Briggs wanted to hear what town Council had to say and check with the Board of Health to see what they will say. Chairwoman Moran asked to check with the town Council from Director Stanley pending approval will be able to take a vote on June 15, 2021

Dog Park Committee

Commissioner Dello Iacono stated that the Dog Park Committee had met and wanted to work on improvements to the dog park working with the with the Board of Selectmen, some of the Committee ideas are dog training, obedience training, cleaning up the dog pack, doggy playdates and possibly having some type of fundraising.

One of the rules we have is no dog walking companies because sometimes they come in with many dogs and come in as a pack and scare off other dog owners. I did explain to the committee if it's dollars to be spent it would need to come before the Commission it was discussed about possible dog play dates or obedience classes such as the doggy ice cream event would they have to go in front of the commissioner to ask the Director as for parking purposes more than one event at the Dolan Center can be difficult at times

Commissioner Briggs stated he has no problem going through the Director for two events just check the schedule of events.

Chairwoman Moran stated that she did not think they could do fundraisers, she thinks these are terrific ideas and if it doesn't cost money, she thinks going through the Directors is fine, she asked about dog walkers in the Dog Park.

Commissioner Dello Iacono stated that there is a current rule that you can only have two dogs at one time at the park, if you are a dog walking Company sometimes, they have more than two dogs, the dog park community is a tightknit community and they do let us now

Commissioner Farnum asked if it was self-reporting

Director Stanley stated if it is causing an issue no one looks the other way, we have had to ask dog walkers to leave the park.

Commissioner Della Iacono stated he would like to offer the park to seniors to possibly reserve time just for senior citizens.

There is a meeting on Monday, via Zoom at 7 o'clock if anyone wants to attend

Commissioner Briggs stated promotion would be needed and we could help advertise.

Advertising Signs

L. Farnham stated that Dedham Youth Soccer had asked about putting up signs at Gonzalez field.

L. Moran stated that there had been conversation about putting up signs, however she thought there was a timeline attached to signs at Gonzalez. She stated that she didn't think that

L. Moran stated that she remembers that there

A. O'Connell stated that she is concerned with the esthetics

L. Farnham stated it is coming up because of sponsorship opportunities

A. O'Connell asked about advertisement at the fields and did not think that was allowed. She stated that Gonzalez has many different sports and was not sure how that would work.

C. Della Iacono stated that it was a consensus at the time the field was opened from the Commission that there were to be no signs on Gonzalez at that time. He stated that is why he suggested to have a review of policies, signs being one of them.

J. Briggs stated that there was conversation about the signs on this specific property, due to esthetics on the brand-new field. There needs to be a policy on signs for the Parks & Recreation properties.

Director Stanley stated this discussion came up three years ago, his recommendation was against signs at Gonzalez.

The signs that are at the baseball/softball fields are not seen from street. He does not feel that there should be signs at this time, as who would get to put up signs as this field as there are so many people use this field. He does not have an issue with putting a sign on the Concession stand.

L. Moran asked if Youth soccer has signs made as of now.

L. Farnham stated not yet

J. Briggs stated that this would probably have to be almost field specific

Director asked about a sign on the Concession at Gonzalez

C. Dello Iacono asked for Chairwoman Moran and A. Connell to look at policies and signs.

A. O'Connell has an issue with donations and signs being done together.

Commissioner O'Connell and Chairwoman Moran to work on policies, that includes signs.

Master Plan

A. O'Connell stated the Community Meetings are complete, and the consultant are wanting to reach out to underrepresented groups.

Open Space

Commissioner Briggs stated that they have been meeting, the current Chair, so there will be some new energy to the group.

J. Briggs asked about if there would be new Sub Committee assignments for members, he is having difficulty making some of the meetings, as they meet at 4:00 pm.

J. Briggs stated there should be another member on the School MOU, usually meets once a year.

C. Dello Iacono stated that there should be two Commissioners on the MOU for the Dolan Center and would like to be on the Manor Fields Committee.

Discussion of Committee assignments.

J. Briggs – Open Space, Open Space

A. O'Connell – Master Plan & Policy

C. Dello Iacono MOU for the Dolan Center & Representative for the Council on Aging

L. Farnham – MOU for Dolan Center & MOU Manor Playground & Transportation

L. Moran – Policy, Livable Dedham & MOU with Schools

Master Plan

J. Briggs wanted to discuss planning ahead for how to work on the Master Plan, such as the incorporating items to the Manor Playground.

C. Dello Iacono stated that some of our fields are needed to rest, and we need fiscal responsibility to working on future field needs and was just using as an example.

A. O'Connell stated that it is we needs to work on future maintenance and asked about using the High School and didn't think that Parks & rent had to pay to use the HS field

R. Stanley stated that custodians are paid however not rentals fees, after a conversation with Dedham Youth Soccer they will try and rest Frietas Field for six weeks. Soccer fields are harder to keep up with, as a baseball is.

J. Briggs asked if this could be an Agenda item for the next meeting.

Pool Director Report

Karen O'Connell shared that the work on the pool is almost complete, and the pool was cleaned and painted looks great.

Programing and scheduling is being worked on, lifeguard classes and lap swim.

Swim & Gym, and Clippers are being worked on, we do have Covid restrictions, there will probably be no parents allowed.

Family swim on Fridays, we will have to have registrations and for lap swim.

Water Aerobics is coming back.

L. Moran asked about CPR classes

K. O'Connell stated she is working on getting that up and running.

C. Dello Iacono welcomed Karen back and asked if there will be a Haunted House.

Karen stated that there will be a Haunted House.

J. Briggs welcomed Karen back and is looking forward to having the pool opened as a full time opening.

K. O'Connell stated they had to follow guidelines, but it will be as soon as possible.

Director Report

Looking forward to opening the Pool

We have no seasonal employees, it is incredibly difficult to find staff, even with raising the salary.

The four employees of the Parks Department are doing great work.

Irrigation is on at all fields.

Gonzalez field has issues, with water situations and where the meter is. It will come with a cost. By the end of next week, the water will be turned on for the Concession stand and irrigation. DPW Director is assisting with many situations at Gonzalez.

- Men's Softball will be starting on Thursday.
- There will be 14 picnic tables around Town,
- Norfolk Aggie will possibly come and do some maintenance on the baseball fields.
- Reopening committee
- Dog Park is free now, will be opened to public at no charge until we can open the building and we can have people come in and register.
- Town Meeting coming up, we are level funded, we gave money back, as we were having very few programs.
- We will try to do the parade and fireworks next year, so we put in for \$50, 000.
- Received a permit to have the graduation for class of 2021, at Memorial Park

L. Farnham asked about the sound system

R. Stanley stated that it was not his sound system, but he can offer his services

C. Dello Iacono asked about notification for people to register for the Dog Park.

Director stated that it will be at least two months to register.

C. Dello Iacono stated that the Parks Department need more employees, we need more employees

Director stated that he has been trying to figure out something to get possibly a full-time employee that works six months for Parks and six months maybe for the DPW. March through October if when we really need another employee.

We had a lot of rain over the weekend and our guys got the fields ready so that the two HS varsity games

C. Dello Iacono asked about reports about the repairs for the Dolan Center

Director stated that they haven't had a meeting in three months, it is now about four months away. They keep finding more structural problems

Director stated he is on Committee for the new Library Director.

L. Moran please invite all Youth groups to the next meeting. She asked about people wearing masks on our fields as that is part of the agreement to play.

A. O'Connell stated that she thinks the requirements keep changing.

Director stated that some of the youth groups are working with the Board of Health.

L. Moran asked for Director to please go back to weekly reports, and the Assistant Director has not been to a meeting in the past two months and the meeting prior there was technical difficulties. She is concerned about programs and a flyer to be done. To be proactive with flyer, and programs.

C. Dello Iacono made a motion to accept report, to accept the report with a second by L. Farnham

Chuck Dello Iacono voted yes

Jonathan Briggs voted yes

Alix O'Connell voted yes

Lisa Farnham voted yes

Chairwoman Moran voted yes

Old Business

J. Briggs stated that the canoe and kayak racks will be built this weekend. Will be built on June 5th. We are going to work on a cost for the rental of the rack. Possibly a boating or paddling club on the river. The exercise equipment for Gonzalez, there was some permit issues, however after all is said and done, we have received the ok, and the DPW will have the work done. Equipment will be ordered and hopefully be done in about six weeks.

C. Dello Iacono stated that the safety netting for two fields is about \$30,000. There have been issues of children almost being hit with foul balls. We need to request this of the town for safety reasons.

A. O'Connell asked where best use of this netting would be used and for which fields.

C. Dello said for Rustcraft and Paul Park, and baseball has requested as well.

L. Farnham asked who would be liable

C. Dello Iacono stated that it

A. O'Connell asked if there was a state guidelines or are we going above and beyond.

Discussion of safety netting for the two fields

L. Moran asked the Director to investigate the safety issue, and please send to the Commissioners the information that he has.

A. O'Connell stated she would like to look into the guidelines

New Business

C. Dello Iacono stated that the Council on Aging is having an Open House on Saturday May 5th.

L. Moran thanked all the program Directors for their hard work.

Motion to adjourn C. Dello Iacono a second by J. Briggs

Chuck Dello Iacono voted yes

Alix O'Connell voted yes

Chairwoman Moran voted yes

Jonathan Briggs voted yes

Lisa Farnham voted yes