

Parks & Recreation Department

Dedham Recreation Center

269 Common Street

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Robert Stanley
Director

Debra Anderson
Assistant & Program Director

Tracey White
Administrative Assistant

April 26, 2022

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Special Meeting for Dog Park Committee – To fill a spot and add two more. We have four candidates for 3 spots.

Present:

Alix O'Connell - Chairwoman
Lisa Farnham – Vice Chairman
Jonathan Briggs – Secretary
Lisa Moran - Member
Robert Stanley – Director

Absent

Debra Anderson – Asst. Director
Tracey White – Assistant to the Director
Commissioner Chuck Dello Iacono

Also included:

Current Dog Park Committee members – Rosaline Hansen and Julie Gauvin.

Chairwoman O'Connell read the Governor's statement

Roll Call Attendance:

Commissioner Moran – Present
Commissioner Farnham – Present
Commissioner Briggs – Present
Commissioner Dello Iacono – Not Present
Chairwoman O'Connell – Present

We have a quorum to proceed.

Candidate Statements

Nancy Lally Carroll – 4th generation Dedham; very impressed with dog park. Does not currently have her own dogs but does have grand pups. She is a TMM on and off for 30 years – currently on. She has always been looking to do more for the Town – and with her love for dogs, this seems like a good fit.

Nicole (Comfort) Harris – New to Dedham. She bought her house in the last year. Moved here from NYC. She has two dogs and used multiple dog parks in NYC. She brings grant writing and environmental help to the table. Being new to Dedham, she was looking to be more involved.

Christine Murphy – (Not on video) Has been in Dedham 20 years. She was disappointed that the proposed dog park did not go in to Striar. She has two dogs of her own and she fosters, and dog sits as well. She has also just signed up to volunteer at the Animal Rescue League. Dogs are her life right now.

Elizabeth Finn (Beth) – Note – Candidate was sick, but Commissioner Moran read into the record some points from her resume - 40+ years resident of Dedham, has worked for Petco and for Animal Rescue League – and has lots of experience with various pet / dog behaviors.

Questions:

From Commissioner Moran – What is one thing that you have seen at other dog parks that was a great idea that the people of Dedham would benefit from?

*Nancy – In Florida, monthly / bimonthly training from a trainer.

*Nicole – Dog Ice Cream truck as well as mulch/organic ground & water source

*Christine – Great water source and a section for small dogs and promoting on social.

From Commissioner Briggs – He was questioning if there was a limit of dogs = how do we control the crowds? He knows this is difficult to answer and really thought one of the current dog park committee members could answer. Rosaline Hansen, current Vice Chair, - no limit but when the locks / fob system gets back into effect, this will certainly help the situation.

From Commissioner Briggs – What is one thing that the DP can do as a one off or multiple times to raise money for the dog park?

*Christine – Businesses to advertise

*Nicole – Halloween Party

*Nancy – Signs

From Commissioner Farnham – Can you tell me characteristics of a good dog park and a bad dog park?

*Nicole – natural ground mulch, shade, water source, large enough space, bushes, trees, make people feel proud.

*Christine – Waste bag section. Noticed a drainage issue. Hears good things about it. Didn't see major issues. Standard water is not good for anyone.

*Nancy – Cleanliness is her big issue. Shouldn't be a shared bowl. Would be optimal for a small dog section.

From current DP member Julie – Are you available for the very rare occasion of weekend activities and for our Monday meetings?

*Nancy – Yes Mondays are her most available days. And happy to help on those additional days.

*Christine – Yes enjoys helping with things like that (pictures with Santa) – not the fundraising part but the events.

*Nicole – Yes, available, and happy to.

Roz = There is a Dedham Dog Park page run by someone else and a Dedham Dog Park Committee page (official) to follow.

Director – We are putting all new permanent fencing. Bob also checked on the card key system. He has checked on them. We want to post for 30 days. Had an existing membership before Covid, we will credit. Wood chips / water is a big problem.

Commissioner Moran asked the Director if the last dog park meeting that he started, if he had taped it as Commissioner Dello was asking Dedham TV for a copy. Director did not tape.

Chairwoman O'Connell thanked all candidates and told them we would decide and vote at next meeting. She asked Commissioners to stay. She asked if we were available for next meeting on May 10, 2022. All said yes – and Commissioner Briggs asked her to follow up in an email to all so that Commissioner Dello would be in the loop.

Meeting ended at 7:42 pm. Minutes respectfully submitted by Commissioner Moran