

Parks & Recreation Department

Dedham Recreation Center

269 Common Street

781-751-9250



Robert Stanley
Director

Debra Anderson
Assistant & Program Director

Tracey White
Administrative Assistant

May 17, 2022

Present:

Alix O'Connell - Chairwoman
Lisa Farnham – Vice Chairman
Jonathan Briggs- Secretary
Chuck Dello lacono - Member
Lisa Moran - Member
Robert Stanley – Director
Tracey White – Assistant to the Director

Absent

Debra Anderson – Asst. Director

Public Comment

Steve MacDonough came before the Commissioners to share that prior to the Dedham High School Varsity Baseball there would be a celebration to honor recently passed former DHS baseball player & coach Mike Weir, who was also the retired Police Chief. It will be May 25, 2022, starting at 5 pm.

Minutes

None to review.

Committee Reorganization:

Council on Aging, Open Space and Schools will be Commissioner Briggs

Dog Park and Livable Dedham will be Commissioner Moran

Transportation, Trenton St. Playground, and School will be Commissioner Farnham

Master Plan, Dedham Square, and MOU Capen will be Chairwoman O'Connell

Permits

- 1) DEF member Caroline Smith requesting use of Memorial Park on October 2, 2022, for Annual DEF Dash Road Race. They have received proper permits from the Select Board and the Police Department. Commissioner Moran made a motion to accept the request, with a second by Commissioner Farnham. All Commissioners voted to accept the request.
- 2) Paul Yandrushevits asked to have a High School aged boys league play on Tuesdays and Thursdays from June 21 – August 4, 2022. Commissioner Briggs made a motion to accept the request, with a second by Commissioner Moran. All Commissioners voted to accept the request. (This was not a Dedham Youth Soccer).
- 3) Dedham Girls Softball - Requesting to use Condon for 14 and 18 under teams – for night games. Churchill and Loewan for practices. Commissioner Moran made a motion to accept the request, with a second by Commissioner Farnham. All Commissioners voted to accept the request.
- 4) Question on permit in regarding Gonzalez – Paul Yandrushevits asked about young people not leaving the field when permit holders arrive to use field. It was discussed to contact police if after asking they do not leave

Dog Park Committee New/Replacement Members – Vote:

Nicole Harris, Elizabeth Finn, Nancy Carroll, and Christine Murphy each put their name in for the three positions on the Dog Park Committee. After a vote of the Commissioners, the three that were voted in were Nicole Harris, Elizabeth Finn and Nancy Carroll. Commissioner Dello did not vote as he was not present at the last meeting.

Mill Pond Park Tree Memorial for AnnMarie McMurtry (Paul Reynolds) Discussion & Vote:

Janet Holmes requesting to purchase and plant a tree at the Mill Pond Park.

Commissioner Briggs stated that the Director should be kept in the loop of when and where the tree will be planted.

Commissioner Farnham asked if there would be a ceremony at some point.

Mrs. Holmes answered that it would likely be but want to get in as soon as possible.

Commissioner Farnham made a motion, with a second by Commissioner Briggs. All Commissioners voted to accept the request.

Jazz Music on Oakdale Common – Discussion and Vote:

Sam Gilman requesting monthly music evenings for the summer months - June 26th, July 31st & August 28th from 3pm – 6pm. They have spoken to the Veteran’s Agent, who has given his blessing. They have not planned on any rain dates as of this time. They are not planning on Police details, as they have no budget and are not planning on big crowds, however, have notified about thirty of the neighbors.

Commissioner Briggs made a motion to accept the request, with a second by Commissioner Moran. All Commissioners voted to accept the request.

Dedham Youth Soccer Request to hang a JH Rumpp Jersey in the Gonzalez Concession Stand Discussion & Vote

Paul Y requested on behalf of Dedham Youth Soccer to hang a jersey in the Concession Stand. He stated it is about 3 X5.

Commissioner Briggs asked if it will be plexiglass, as that would be much safer.

Director Stanley stated he had no issue as JH and the Rumpp family were and are great members of the community.

Commissioner Moran made a motion to accept the request, with a second by Commissioner Briggs. All Commissioners voted to accept the request, with Commissioner Farnham abstaining from the vote due to her connection with soccer.

Non-Binary Gender Categories for Program Registrations

Commissioner Farnham had questions regarding the Parks & Recreation registration software and the question of needing to put male or female on the form.

Director Stanley stated he can add whatever boxes are needed or wanted.

Commissioner Moran stated that it is needed for Swim Team.

Chairwoman O’Connell asked Commissioner Moran to check and see what the Swim Leagues are doing.

Commissioner Dello Iacono stated maybe Town Council could come in to discuss.

Committee Reports

Dog Park – Commissioner Moran stated that they had the Clean Up and working on fencing possibilities

Trenton Road MOA – Commissioner Farnham stated the Opening will be this coming Saturday at 1 pm. She is concerned about the opening without having an MOA yet.

Capen MOA - Chairwoman O'Connell stated that there will be a meeting on May 24th and will have more information to follow

Open Space - Commissioner Briggs stated that there is not enough money for signage and will be seeking various avenues for funds.

Director Report

Director Stanley stated that the pool had to have been shut down for the past week due to Federal laws regarding drain covers, luckily Pool Director Karen O'Connell's brother-in-law is a SCUBA diver and was able to replace the new cover.

While doing so it was found that there was a chemical imbalance, it was difficult to get one chemical up and another would come down.

Karen did a great job handling these situations, she did the best she could with the issues at the pool.

Town Meeting approved the Operating Budget, it was disappointing that the number one item the safety bleachers were not approved, the Town Manager stated he support in the Fall, we did have security cameras for Gonzalez, shade structures and fencing for the Dog Park were approved.

Chairwoman O'Connell stated that she was disappointed that safety issues were not given higher priority.

Concession Stand bathrooms are becoming an issue.

Commissioner Dello Iacono stated that the Facilities Department has Custodians, they are Town buildings, that have been accepted by the Town.

Director stated that if the Town doesn't agree then possible the Youth Groups can take care of them.

Chairwoman O'Connell asked that Bob have a meeting with Town Manager to discuss.

Director stated that parking is an issue at Condon, and the owners of neighboring businesses have called to ask that we request Youth Groups not to park on private property.

Old Business

Commissioner Moran asked about completing the filming in the parks for Dedham Cable.

Chairwoman O'Connell gave update on pollinators.

New Business

Chairwoman O'Connell brought up bike racks at Rustcraft and other locations. She also brought up Powderhouse – and making it a park.

Commissioner Dello Iacono asked if there had been any issues at Rustcraft and why the locks had been changed. He would like a set of keys to the Concession Stand.

Commissioner Moran stated that she asked the Director if Dedham Youth Baseball be allowed to change the locks, as too many people had keys. The Director gave her a verbal approval to do so. Commissioner Dello Iacono stated that as a commissioner, he wanted keys to the Concession stand, as he had keys to other buildings on Parks & Recreation property. Commissioner Moran replied with no. A discussion regarding why keys were needed by Commissioners. Commissioner Dello Iacono stated that he was given keys many years ago to various buildings. Chairwoman O'Connell stated that the Board would discuss at a future meeting. Commissioner Dello Iacono stated that he would discuss with the Town Clerk.

Commissioner Briggs asked if it be possible to put Pickleball Courts at Churchill Park.

Adjourn

Commissioner Briggs made a motion to conclude the meeting with a second by Commissioner Moran. All commissioners voted to close the meeting.

Next meeting – Monday, June 13th.