

Parks & Recreation Department

Dedham Recreation Center

269 Common Street

781-751-9250



Robert Stanley
Director

Debra Anderson
Assistant & Program Director

Tracey White
Administrative Assistant

September 12, 2022

Present:

Absent

Alix O'Connell - Chairwoman
Lisa Farnham – Vice Chairwoman
Jonathan Briggs- Secretary
Lisa Moran - Member
Robert Stanley – Director
Debra Anderson – Asst. Director

Chuck Dello Iacono - Member
Tracey White – Assistant to the Director

Public Comment

None

Minutes

None to review. Everything through May 2022 is on website. We need to review & approve June, July, August 2022.

Permits

- 1) Woman Soccer League – Sunday nights at Condon Park – 5-6 pm from September 18th to December 11th, 2022. Commissioner Farnham made a motion to accept the permit request, with a second by Commissioner Briggs. All Commissioners present voted to accept the permit.

Capen School MOU – Vote:

Chairwoman O'Connell explained she met with the Superintendent, the School Committee Chair, Town Manager, our director to go over this MOU. This is not for us to be moving to the Capen permanently. This is to allow us space while the roof at the Dolan Center is being fixed.

Commissioner Moran had some questions:

1) There is a part in the MOU that mentions that P&R would be responsible for up to \$10,000. Since all the costs are coming in higher, who would be responsible for the remaining amount if it comes in much higher.

*Per Director – the \$10k was based on last year’s budget. We will not have that amount this year. This will have to be revisited.

2) SB will allow the P&R department to use the Dolan Center based on the current MOU. Is this just to continue as existing as it was never updated?

*Yes

3) It mentions that P&R is responsible for daily custodial cleaning at the Dolan Center and Capen. Does this mean that our budget is going to double?

*The Director spoke to Facilities and mentioned that we were looking for same level of services. But this was brought up before it thought that there was going to be two locations.

4) If they are needing this swing space, will we be given sufficient notice that we will need to move out or are we going to be given a quick you need to leave?

*They are just waiting to find out what is going on with Oakdale. The Chair said we will be given sufficient notice – and that there is only a 10% chance that they will need it.

5) During the initial tour of the Capen, the Facilities Director said she put together the initial MOU. Commissioner Moran asked to have confirmation that this has been before Town Counsel as well as all the previously mentioned parties?

*Chairwoman O’Connell answered in the affirmative.

These questions/answers answered Commissioner Farnham’s concerns.

Commission Briggs wanted to know what our recourse was if Facilities doesn’t do what is provided in the MOU.

*Chairwoman O’Connell answer that is why she has asked SB to sign the agreement as well.

Chairwoman O’Connell asked for a motion to accept. Point of clarification –

Commissioner Moran asked that we are voting on approving the MOU and then the other two boards (Select and School) will then approve. We would the all come together to sign the document. For whatever reason, SC Chairwoman said we needed to approve first.

Commissioner Briggs made the motion to accept the Capen School MOU, with a second by Commissioner Farnham. All Commissioners present voted to accept the MOU.

Gould Memorial Park Discussion

Brian Keaney, Chairman of the Gould Memorial project and Mark Novak, Design Principal at Activitas came in front of the Board to discuss the design layout and status. Joe Flanagan, DPW Director was also there if we had questions. The hope is to have the dedication on Memorial Day 2023 – which would be the 100th anniversary of William B. Gould's death. And if not ready, they would aim for Veteran's Day.

Mr. Novak ran through the presentation of what the upper and lower plaza areas would look like, and answered our questions on where the sign is, where the bench is, how it will have inspirational quotes, whether lighting to illuminate at night, maintenance costs, and if removing the sidewalk has any State issues (no per JF). He mentioned that this will require an NOI with Conservation which they are on track for.

Mr. Keaney mentioned they hired a new fundraiser – as they are a bit behind where they would like to be and how the costs have skyrocketed.

Chairwoman O'Connell asked for a motion. Commissioner Moran made a motion to accept the design of the Gould Statue. It was seconded by Commissioner Farnham. All Commissioners present voted to accept.

Committee Reports

Dog Park – Commissioner Moran gave update:

*Fencing is coming in much more than we received. We may only have enough to replace three sides for now. We are also waiting to hear back from contractors on the State bid list. No one is getting back to the Director. We may need to start reaching out to other vendors.

*Fobs start date was postponed a week and starting this Wednesday (9/14/22).

*Halloween Dog Park Costume Party on Saturday October 22nd 10-12 pm (rain date 10/23).

Open Space – Commissioner Briggs gave update:

*The Open Space Committee is looking to have a Summit with all dept/committees to get everyone in the same room and on the same page.

Wigam Pond – Nothing yet

Council on Aging – Meeting this coming week

Aquatic Director's Update

Lots going on at the pool. Make sure to check the online calendar as well as our program registration page. Classes / events coming up are:

- *Swim lessons – children / adults
- *Master Classes
- *Synchronized Swim Team
- *Open Swim
- *Lap Swim
- *Haunted House – October 21st / 22nd
- *Scott Spann Olympic Swimmer – October 23rd
- *Water Aerobics
- *Birthday Parties
- *Fitness in Water instructor training class - November 5th
- *Clipper Winter Swim Team

Director Report

Director Stanley stated how the draught this summer was a huge problem for us. Churchill was great, Condon had irrigation issues, Memorial is back now. Rustcraft is our problem child. Half is on well water; half is on Town water. May be time to put a new irrigation system in – at least on the soccer field.

Chairwoman O'Connell questioned the use of water when there was a draught and there was no outdoor water use allowed. Director Stanley explained that it was all well water.

Gonzalez – the crew spent a few days fixing the door and bathrooms up there (due to damage). Security system should be in within the next month and a half.

Quick discussion about “No Dog” signs at the Parks.

Run for the Fallen ran smoothly.

Pumpkin Bowl coming up as well as DEF Dash.

Fence work – lots to do around Town. Not that he wants to, but we need to. Tennis court from tree falling is \$3,800. He is concerned that these will be eating into budget.

Town Administrator would like us to put in a Splash Pad somewhere in Town. Capen was suggested.

DP Pricing = When the dog park initially went in, it was strictly a Dedham only. We couldn't give it out of town for the same rate.

Assistant Director Report

Still getting compliments on what a great summer it was. Upcoming Fall programs include:

- *Dance / *Gymnastics / *Karate /*Golf
- *Adult Indoor Tennis – starts in November
- *Kayak tours through November
- *Glass Fusion classes – both children and adults
- *Kayak Storage ends October 30th – we could use more spaces next year
- *Autism arts and crafts program at Mother Brook Community Center
- *Dedham Day - Friends of Dedham Parks and Recreation = Sunday, September 25th

Old Business

Commissioner Moran about cleaning bathrooms. Came back up because there was no porta potty at the pool. We pay for Paul Park and Condon as we run

Commissioner Moran will try to work on porta potty payments and cleaning – (do we charge a fee). She will work on speaking to Boards and groups. We want this all resolved for when sports programs come in February for their permits.

Commissioner Briggs mentioned that with all the field items, he thinks it's time that we re-address the Striar property discussions.

New Business

Chairwoman O'Connell article brought up about fields at Greenlodge and Riverdale. Does this affect us? It does somewhat as we do maintenance – but they need to figure out what they are doing with the schools first.

Next Meeting Dates

October – Monday, October 17th – 7 pm

November – Tuesday, November 15th – 7 pm

December – Monday, December 12th – 7 pm

Adjourn

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

Meeting ended at 8:28 pm. Minutes respectfully submitted by Commissioner Moran.