

Parks & Recreation Department

Dedham Recreation Center

269 Common Street

781-751-9250



Robert Stanley
Director

Debra Anderson
Assistant & Program Director

Tracey White
Administrative Assistant

October 17, 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

September minutes were available for review. Commission Moran realized she has a change to make in the "old business" section. Motion made by Commission Farham noting the change to be made by Commission Moran. Commission Briggs made the second. All Commissioners present voted in favor.

Outstanding minutes are June, July, and August.

Permits

- 1) Wrestling – Steve Heaslip, President of Dedham Wrestling presented two permits:
 - a. Permit for a High School conditioning period at Dolan Center– open mats, getting back into shape before high school season. Each participant is required to have a USA membership (which includes insurance). Would start as soon as allowed to right before high school season (Thanksgiving time period).

- b. Permit for a Youth wrestling program – same as High school that USA membership is required. Open to Middle School – and potentially through 3rd grade. Tuesdays / Thursdays night at Dolan Center.

After a few questions, a motion was made by Commissioner Briggs and a second by Commissioner Farnham. All Commissioners present voting in the affirmative.

Capen School MOU – Signatures

The School Committee signed the MOU and it was now Parks and Recreation's turn to do so. Commissioners O'Connell, Briggs, Moran, and Farham signed the document. Select Board will sign next.

Fitness Court & Summer Basketball Clinic

Basketball Clinic Update:

In conjunction with Parks and Recreation, Bob LoPorto ran a free summer basketball program for girls in 3rd – 5th grade Sundays in July at the Capen School. It was a weekly program that people needed to register for. There were 30 girls participating over the weeks – with no less than 10 girls and no more than 15 girls each week. He mentioned may need to charge next summer. But thanked Director Stanley for his help.

Fitness Court Video:

Mr. LoPorto presented us with a 3-minute video of "Fitness Court" – an outdoor exercise program with an app. He asked questions of three major cities that have this currently – Chemsford, Everett, and Burlington. Some take aways from our discussion:

- *cost was about \$200k with \$50k in grants

- *program is 7 minutes long

- *all fencing, maintenance and any extras are costs to us

There were multiple questions from the Commissioners- with mixed views. Since we already have an outdoor exercise program (where we left room for other pieces), it was decided that we didn't want to spend the money on this at this time.

Committee Reports

Dog Park – Commissioner Moran gave update:

*Halloween Dog Park Costume Party this Saturday October 22nd 10-12 pm (rain date 10/23). We are hopeful for people to register as well.

Wigwam Pond – Commissioner Farnham - Nothing yet

Open Space / COA – Commissioner Briggs gave update:

*The Open Space Committee is working on a map, and they think it will be as easy as Google Maps.

*Council on Aging – Big cookout was a huge success.

Masterplan – Chairwoman O’Connell:

*The master plan is still in front of the Panni Bard – and moving slowly.

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 – On Friday, the first hour will be “No Scare” lights on and handicap accessible.

*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 they are now working on FY 24 budgets – Operating and Capital. They are going to look at items that we wanted last year. Director Stanley mentioned he sat with the Finance Director, and he went through all our old budgets – with money that was left over from our budgets. They are looking to see what we can receive back.

At a minimum they are looking for a 10% increase.

*Started shutting down the irrigation systems at the fields.

*Working on fencing repairs around town (Churchill, tennis courts, dog park).

*Churchill Sensory playground time – we agreed at Churchill. They are asking about more locations and longer times. Commissioners would like to see how much it is being used currently by the group. Director Stanley talked about a portable sign.

Assistant Director Report

Thank you for your help at Dedham Day. We had 51 vendors and 60 high school volunteers.

*Dance / *Gymnastics / *Karate /*Golf

*Adult Indoor Tennis – starts in November

*Kayak tours through November – 2 more sunset tours

*Glass Fusion classes – both children and adults

*Kayak Storage ends October 30th – we could use more spaces next year

*Cardio tennis for adults starting soon at Oakdale school in gym.

*12 days of Reading

*Exploratory arts for Path finders at Mother Brook

Old Business

Commissioner Moran about cleaning bathrooms – still need to work on it.

Gould Project – even more over budget.

Commissioner Briggs - Striar property discussions – how do we start the process again?

New Business

*Santa Event – a bank (Compass) wants to do a Santa event at Paul Park. We said to do as a one-day rental – and they should not be charging.

*Pickleball – Commissioner Moran passed along Amy Gilmore's name and information about indoor courts (@Capen). Passed along to Commissioners Farnham and Briggs.

Next Meeting Dates

November – Tuesday, November 15th – 7 pm

December – Monday, December 12th – 7 pm

Adjourn

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

Meeting ended at 8:21 pm. Minutes respectfully submitted by Commissioner Moran.