

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
TOWN OF NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS**

**Minutes of Meeting
January 10, 2022**

PRESENT: Cynthia Chaston, Christopher Gerstel, Michelle Geddes, Bruce Williams

ABSENT: Dina Hannigan

STAFF: Stacey Mulroy, Fabien Desrouleaux, Kristen Wright

Ms. Chaston called the meeting to order at 7:03PM.

1. Open Forum – Public Comment

None presented.

2. Chair's Update

Ms. Chaston updated the Commission in regards to the meeting with the Finance Committee that was attended by Ms. Mulroy, Mr. Gerstel, Ms. Wright and herself before the holidays. Ms. Chaston shared that the Finance Committee was receptive to the budget and had questions about the revenues and the two new Park Ranger positions that have been proposed.

3. Director's Report

Ms. Mulroy reviewed the Director's report. Ms. Mulroy stated that she has invited the parties interested in the Claxton project to the February meeting in hopes to have an update.

Ms. Geddes asked for clarification what could have been done differently and could this issues have been identified earlier.

4A. Fees

None presented.

4B. Capital Projects

No updates presented.

4C. CPC

Ms. Mulroy stated she would be presenting at the February 9th CPC meeting for the Needham High School Tennis Courts project and the Cricket Field House.

4D. Playgrounds & Facilities

Ms. Geddes asked if there is currently plan for upgrading the playgrounds. Ms. Mulroy discussed that she and Ms. Wright have been meeting to identify the next projects and would get something to the Commission soon.

4E. Pickleball

Ms. Chaston asked the Commission to review the email that had been included in their packet and the Commission discussed next steps to bring Pickleball to Needham. Mr. Williams stated that it

could be outdoor only. Ms. Geddes stated that a survey should be done to identify the interest in tennis and permanently line after the results of the survey have been reviewed. Mr. Gerstel stated that it would make sense to place lines at Mills as the courts located at schools would be offline to the public during school hours and asked if Pollard had been considered. Ms. Chaston stated that we have to move forward to bring something to the community and the Commission should determine the fee to utilize the courts on a more permanent basis. Ms. Chaston also stated that this project needs to be prioritized.

4F. Storage Units

The Commission reviewed the report compiled by Mr. Desrouleaux showing various pricing and size options. Ms. Mulroy stated that she is hoping to get a recommendation about what next steps the Commission would like to make regarding the units. Ms. Geddes asked how many units are possible in the space. Ms. Mulroy stated she would reach out to the Director of Public Works to determine what options there are.

5A. Special Event Approvals

Needham Soccer Club

The Commission discussed this event. Ms. Mulroy will reach out to Mr. Miskin to discuss the fee.

Mr. Gerstel made a motion to approve the annual Memorial Day Tournament to be held by the Needham Soccer Club at the DeFazio Complex, Cricket 1 and 2, High Rock Multipurpose, Newman Multipurpose, Newman main parking lot, and Pollard Multipurpose field from Friday, May 27 – Monday May 30 from 8:00am – 10:00pm daily. The fee will be determined at a later date. Ms. Geddes seconded the motion and it passed 4-0.

5B. Fee Approvals

None presented.

5C. Meeting Minutes

Ms. Geddes made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from December 13, 2021. Mr. Gerstel seconded the motion and it passed 3-0-1.

6. Topics for Future Meetings

Skatepark – February 14 meeting

7. Issues Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair within 48 Hours

No presented.

8. Next Meetings

The Commission reviewed the next meeting dates. Ms. Chaston will not be present at the 2/14 meeting.

9. Adjournment of Business Meeting

Mr. Gerstel moved to adjourn the January 10, 2022, Park and Recreation Commission meeting at 8:02pm. Mr. Williams seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 8:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Wright
Administrative Specialist