

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

**Minutes of Meeting
July 27, 2020**

PRESENT: Christopher J. Gerstel, Cynthia J. Chaston, Michelle S. Geddes, Matthew M. Toolan,
Bruce R. Williams
Stacey Mulroy, Angela O'Connor, Kristen Wright

Ms. Chaston called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM remotely using Zoom.

Ms. Chaston read a statement regarding public meeting process due to COVID-19.

1. Open Forum – Public Comment

None presented

2. Director's Report

Ms. Mulroy reviewed the report with the Commission.

Mr. Gerstel asked who the 6 user groups that have requested field use. Ms. Mulroy identified the YMCA, Needham Baseball & Softball, Needham Soccer, Needham Flag Football, Needham Jr. Football, and American Legion.

Mr. Toolan asked if the permits were for the summer or the fall. Ms. Mulroy stated that it was for the summer. Mr. Toolan made note that they are still figuring out at the school level as to what sports can be held. Mr. Toolan asked if the videos can be saved for future use. Ms. Mulroy stated that we are and asking for them to record others as to be used as a later date as well.

Ms. Geddes presented no questions.

Ms. Chaston asked if the staffing levels were still appropriate with the lower numbers. Ms. Mulroy stated that we are creatively using the staff and redistributing them to other tasks as necessary. Ms. Chaston asked how many people we are expecting at the pools tomorrow. Ms. Mulroy stated that we are completely full in lap swimming with a few open water walking lanes and all family timeslots are full.

Mr. Williams thanked Ms. Mulroy for the report and excited to hear how the first day at the Pools goes.

3A. Pool Updates

Discussed earlier in the meeting during the Director's Report.

3B. Summer Recess Updates

Discussed earlier in the meeting during the Director's Report.

3C. Playground Updates

Ms. Chaston thanked the staff for getting Greene's Field playground opened.

Mr. Toolan asked what the reasoning we are providing to the community about timing. Ms. Mulroy stated that outside of safety and safety surfacing installation. Ms. Mulroy stated opening the playgrounds while also setting up programs and opening the pools created a delay in opening as well as the fact that in a normal summer Parks and Forestry has summer staff that has not been hired this year that helps facilitate some of these tasks.

4A. For-Profit Organizations & Field Usage

No updates were presented. Ms. Chaston asked that this item be removed from the agenda until the end of October.

4B. Boat Launch

No updates.

4C. Walker Pond

Ms. Mulroy is working with the Town Engineer to set up a meeting with the working group to discuss the things that the Town is already doing to help mitigate the Pond.

4D. Fields

Ms. Mulroy stated that permitting is going well and there is still some feedback regarding mask compliance. Ms. Mulroy stated that trash is still a major concern.

Ms. Wright shared that the fence at DeFazio-Warner has been repaired and is back online. Ms. Mulroy stated that there was an irrigation issue at McLeod. Mr. Gerstel stated that the field is still open for use.

4E. Events

Ms. Mulroy stated that the drive-in was successful although not as highly attended as anticipated. Ms. Mulroy stated that it was a great learning experience and after talking to other communities that they are not breaking even and charging less.

Mr. Gerstel stated that he received great feedback and the only suggestion was to potentially have a slightly older movie as the hour was a little late for younger kids.

4F. Projects

No updates presented

5A. Meeting Minutes

Mr. Toolan made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2020 meeting. Mr. Gerstel seconded the motion and it passed, 4 – 0 – 1.

6. Issues Not Reasonable Anticipated by Chair within 48 hours

Ms. Mulroy announced that Ms. O'Connor will be resigning from the department and that we are thrilled and saddened.

Ms. O'Connor stated that she was offered a position to be a Program Director for a non-profit organization in Maine. Ms. Chaston asked when her last day would be. Ms. O'Connor stated that her last day would be August 14th.

Mr. Gerstel expressed that Ms. O'Connor will be missed and thanked her for all her hard work and wishes her luck.

Mr. Toolan thanked Ms. O'Connor and stated that she has done a tremendous job over the past few years.

Ms. Geddes thanked Ms. O'Connor.

Ms. Mulroy reviewed the next meeting dates as August 10th and 24th and September 14th and 28th. Ms. Chaston confirmed the meeting dates with the other Commissioners.

7. Topics for Future Agendas

Ms. Geddes asked about Fall Field Permitting. Ms. Mulroy stated that she will be talking to Superintendent of Schools and the Director of Health and Human Services and once the process is determined she will send an email to the user groups.

Mr. Toolan stated that schools were pushed out to September 14th. Mr. Toolan asked if we knew when the MIIA or the Governor would come out with further guidance. Ms. Wright stated that MIIA pushed out sports to September 14th. Ms. O'Connor stated that they may flip flop some sports from the Fall to the Spring. Mr. Toolan asked if we could get some information and plan accordingly instead of waiting.

8. Adjournment of Business Meeting

Mr. Toolan moved to adjourn the July 27, 2020 Park and Recreation Commission meeting at 7:53pm. Mr. Gerstel seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 7:53pm.