***Parks & Recreation Department***



*Dedham Recreation Center*

*269 Common Street*

*781-751-9250*

*Anthony Mucciaccio Pool*

*1 Recreation Road*

*781-461-5991*

*Robert Stanley*

*Director*

*Debra Anderson*

*Assistant & Program Director*

*Tracey White*

*Administrative Assistant*

October 5, 2020

Virtual Meeting via : Zoom

Present:    Absent: A. O’Connell

Tye Donahue- Chairman Debra Anderson – Asst. Director

Lisa Moran – Vice Chairman

Chuck Dello Iacono

Jonathan Briggs

Robert Stanley – Director

Tracey White – Assistant to the Director

Chairman Donahue opened the meeting by reading the Governors statement:

***Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic and State of Emergency, on March 12, 2020, Governor Baker issued an Executive Order Temporarily Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A sec. 20. Pursuant to the Order, public bodies are temporarily relieved from the Open Meeting Law’s requirement that meetings be held in public places, open and physically accessible to the public, so long as measures are taken to ensure public access to the bodies' deliberations "through adequate, alternative means."***

Roll Call Attendance:

L. Moran stated present

C. Dello Iacono stated present

J. Briggs stated present

Chairman Donahue stated present

**Public Comment**: None

**Rita Mae Christmas Decorations**  D. Dello Iacono asked on behalf of Mrs. Cushman that she be allowed to decorate Hartnett Square & Oakdale Common

Motion made by J. Briggs that with much appreciation, that Mrs. Cushman’s request be honored, C. Dello Iacono made a second to the motion.

Roll Call Vote

L. Moran - yes

J. Briggs – yes

C. Dello Iacono – yes

Chairman Donahue - yes

Motion Passed unanimously

C. Dello Iacono thanked Rita Mae & friends for continuing to decorate these areas.

**Minutes**

J. Briggs made a motion to accept the August Minutes, as written, L. Moran made a second to the motion

Roll Call Vote  
J. Briggs voted yes  
L. Moran voted yes  
C. Dello Iacono voted yes

Chairman Donahue voted yes

Motion passed unanimously

**Condon Park Swing**

L. Moran stated that she had spoken to Resident C. Krueger (who lead a Committee to revitalize Condon Park), Director Stanley stated that he had spoken to C. Krueger, who feels that the swing should stay at Condon Park, as is. He wanted the Board to know that he feels after speaking to the neighbors that the swing set should stay as it is.

L. Moran stated that she is not against taking away any swings, she stated that it seems that all parties seem to be in agreement not to remove the swing, however it could use a fresh coat of paint and possibly paint the entire structure, possibly blue, to match the other structures.

J. Briggs asked if we are hearing from enough voices, it is a limited group of people that we have heard from.

L. Moran stated the initial post on Social Media stated to call the Dept. Office with concerns.

The Director stated the Office has received no complaints to remove it.

L. Moran stated she had met at the Park with Tracey Franklin, an Administrator for the Anti-Racism Coalition, who had agreed to leave it, and possibly paint the structure

T. Donahue we should get a bigger community input, before we make any changes, we need to do more homework.

C. Dello Iacono stated that there have not received any official complaints or words we should leave it alone, we would never have been able to do that park at that time without the Community Fundraisers and efforts that went into restoring that structure, we have had no official request to change.

J. Briggs agrees with the sentiment of leaving it be, until we hear from residents, we should wait and see. It should get a fresh coat of paint.

L. Moran asked what the process to paint it and freshen up the paint, it would be nice to do that.

C. Dello Iacono stated it was a fundraiser to paint and resurfacing, we should get the group that did the original work’s opinion.

J. Briggs stated that until there is a formal complaint, we wait and see, and asked about how long it has been since it has been painted

Director stated it has been about ten years

C. Dello Iacono stated that Blue Hills students, painted and restored and that it was a Fundraiser by Mother Brook Community Group, we should get that organization before we paint

T. Donahue stated that there has been no formal complaints until we get some, we should keep it on our radar.

**Gonzalez Fitness Area**

**J**. Briggs shared a few slides on the proposed Fitness Area at Gonzalez Field, behind the Concession Stand Area. He has been working on a grant through AARP and a local hospital, and joint partnership with Livable Dedham to have three or four pieces of equipment to start, it will be geared towards over 55+ residents. It would tie in nicely at Gonzalez, it will be more of a linear path and individual pieces of equipment on individual pad. Activitas, generously donated their time and effort for the renderings of the plan. We have not decided on which pieces of equipment, we have sought input from various trainers and Livable Dedham Group and the Parks and Recreation. It will be ADA compliant. Next steps are to go to Conservation Commission, additional funding is being sought to not need to look for any cost to the Parks & Recreation Department or to the DPW. There are quotes being sought.

C. Dello Iacono stated that he hopes that there will be room for other pieces of equipment, Check on the gifting with the Town Managers Office, as that goes through the Board of Selectman, and we should take a vote in favor on this project tonight.

J. Briggs stated that there will probably only be room for four pieces of the equipment in that area, we may need to have other areas for equipment for maybe High School aged residents. He stated that he has been in contact with the Town and Assistant Town Manager. There may be some equipment on the State Bid list to save money.

L. Moran asked who would be in charge for maintenance and cost of that.

J. Briggs stated that the Parks & Recreation would maintain the field area around the equipment and the pieces of equipment usually have a ten-year warranty or life span. Maybe we save to fix or replace the equipment in maybe ten years or so.

Motion to move forward with the Senior Equipment at Gonzalez Field, working with Liveable Dedham, by C. Dello Iacono, with a second by L. Moran

Roll Call Vote

J. Briggs voted yes

C. Dello Iacono voted yes

L. Moran voted yes

Chairman Donahue voted yes

Passed unanimously

J. Briggs stated that it was thought to have an accessible area, maybe near the square and the Senior Center at the Town Hall, with a sitting area.

**Directors Goals/Commissioners Goals**

Chairman Donahue asked all members to send their information, as he has not received all , and requested that they do so, so that it can be on the next agenda

**Old Business**

J. Briggs stated that he is still working with A. O’Connell on racks at the Dolan Center, could C. Dello Iacono send him information on the Eagle Scout who is looking for a project.

L. Moran asked about the new cards for the Dog Park, and what is the status of the Dog Park

Director stated that they have not received them from the Town yet, he stated that it is open for all at this time

C. Dello Iacono stated that in the past that there was generally a meeting just for the Goals

He is in contact with Nancy Baker with postings for the Dog Park

Director stated he has given Mrs. Baker the prior postings, and she is working on it

**New Business**

L. Moran stated she has no New Business

C. Dello Iacono stated has no New Business

J. Briggs stated that there is no Environmental Department, there is no support for the Trails or Water Trails now. The Website is still there and Social Media. There is Trail work that needs to be done, there is a bit of erosion on the trail, we do not have a funding source. Parks & Recreation should have maintenance of the trails

L. Moran stated that maybe volunteer groups and community clean ups, such as Encounter Church that have helped in the past.

J. Briggs stated that those are great ideas, however it should be something in our budget to take care of

C. Dello Iacono stated that the Environment Department had a budget of $5, ooo. Maybe work with the local Landscapers have a sponsor a Spot, find out it is something we could do, we should be working with the Norfolk County Sheriffs.

J. Briggs stated that there are no specific monies in the budget for Trails maintenance from Environmental Department

L. Moran asked what we should be doing now, such as a walk through, to see what we can do. The paths and trails have changed over time and become overgrown and worn.

J. Briggs stated that possibly a Trail Audit, he stated that it is more than a rake and a shovel at this point.

T. Donahue asked the Director to share his report

Director stated that he had a conversation with the Town Manager Office, we have already taken on storing and delivering the composting bins

Dedham Trails Day is something that we could take on, as we have been a major part of in the past

Parks has done some maintenance over the past five or six years, weed whacking etc, and we can continue to do so over the trails

Fields at Rustcraft have 25 % all new irrigation lines and it is working.

Nets at Gonzalez were stolen about Labor Day and does not seem like we will be able to replace until the spring, it will cost about $4,000.00 for a bucket truck and about $5,000. For the nets.

Pool Window Project is officially delayed, will not be completed until mid-December, we will have to make decisions about Clippers and the High School Teams

Working on trying to get several programs going such as Dance, Gymnastics, Pathfinders

C. Dello asked about the HVAC system at the Pool

Director stated that the bidding process did not go as planned, we will need more funding, Now looking at February or March. We must try and open as much as possible, we are losing people to other pools, it is all timing on these contractors it is difficult to

C. Dello asked why we are so behind on the HVAC Project, do we have to rebid, and what was the initial timeline

Director stated it may have to go to a rebid and it must go through the Bond Funding approval process

L. Moran stated that she had emailed the Director and the Assistant Director and is waiting for a response

The Director stated that he is aware of conflicting information on registration and website and will discuss with Asst. Director and get correct information and fix

Motion to accept the Directors Report by L. Moran with a second by C. Dello Iacono

Roll Call vote

C. Dello Iacono voted yes

J. Briggs voted yes

L. Moran voted yes

Chairman Donahue voted yes

Motion to adjourn meeting by C. Dello Iacono with a second by L. Moran

Roll Call Vote

J. Briggs voted yes

C. Dello Iacono voted yes

L. Moran voted yes

Chairman Donahue voted yes

Meeting adjourned