



Parks & Recreation Department



April 12, 2021

Virtual Meeting via: Zoom

Present:

Lisa Moran - Chairperson
Chuck Dello Iacono – Vice Chair
Alix O’Connell - Secretary
Jonathan Briggs
Lisa Farnham
Robert Stanley – Director
Tracey White – Assistant to the Director

Absent:

Debra Anderson – Program Director

Vice Chair Moran 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."

Attendance taken:

J. Briggs stated present A. O’Connell stated present C. Dello Iacono stated present.
L. Moran stated present L. Farnham stated present.

J. Briggs nominated Lisa Moran as the Chairwoman, C. Dello Iacono made a second to the motion.

A Roll call vote was taken, all voted in favor, motion passed.

J. Briggs nominated C. Dello Iacono as the Vice Chairman. L. Farnham made a second to the motion. Roll call vote was taken, all voted in favor, motion passed.

C. Dello Iacono nominated A. O'Connell as the Secretary, J. Briggs made a second to the motion, a roll call vote was taken, all voted in favor, motion passed.

Public Comment

Paul Yandrisevits congratulated Chuck Dello Iacono and Lisa Farnham on being newly elected to the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Mr Yandrisevits made a request to open the entrance gate to the Rustcraft field complex, next to the parking lot during the Spring season, as it serves as a second entrance as a safety situation during the Covid restrictions.

Dan Hart, former Parks & Recreation Commissioner and the Chair of the Parks & Recreation/Open Space Master Plan asked that the Commissioners please look at often and use the Master Plan, as it was not intended to sit on a shelf but to be a working document.

Chairwoman Moran asked Mr. Hart about the Gould Memorial Committee, as she knew they have a meeting tomorrow evening.

D. Hart stated there is funding and grant opportunities and will keep the Commissioners informed, as they proceed.

Minutes – C. Dello Iacono made a motion to accept the March 2021 Meeting Minutes, J. Briggs made a second to the motion, a roll call vote was taken, L. Farnham abstained from the vote as she was not Commissioner at that time. All others voted in favor; the motion passed.

Permits – Dan O'Neil asked to have a Softball League play at Condon Park on Sundays from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm, did not attend the February Meeting as he was unaware if they would be able to get enough teams together for a Spring League, as they usually play in the Fall. J. Briggs made a motion to accept the Permit request, A. O'Connell made a second to the motion, all in favor for the permit to go forward.

Dog Park

Commissioner Dello Iacono stated that it is a great group of enthusiastic members and they have voted on a Chairperson, Vice Person and a Secretary

There will be a liaison between the Director and the Committee and are looking toward doing a clean-up and possibility to have a meeting at the Dog Park.

J. Briggs stated that if it is to be the permanent Dog Park shouldn't it be discussed with Selectman.

C. Dello Iacono stated he will reach out to Town Administrative Office – it is always about funding.

Chairwoman Moran stated that next month they will potentially reorganize the Sub Committees and have this as an Agenda item.

Directors Report

- Pool Construction is scheduled to be done mid -May – we will need two or three weeks to clean
- Pool Director may not be returning, Dedham pay is much lower. She is a finalist in Brookline.
- We may have to hire someone We will be working on that we may will have to hire temporary – working on posting
- Do not think it will affect opening. Debbie will have to be at the pool more often.
- We have no intention of bringing her back at her prior salary, the new Human Resource Director is great, she has visited the Dolan Center and will work with the Department

Debbie is on vacation.

Parks – Getting parks ready for the Spring Seasons.

Gonzales paving requires Conservation Commission approval with Exercise Stations, hoping to get it all done together.

A. O’Connell asked if that would affect events at Gonzalez. There are areas of activates going on there.

B. Stanley stated work would be done during the day.

Chairwoman Moran – Window in the bathroom is ridiculous.

B. Stanley – They may need to be replaced.

J. Briggs – stated it was architecturally nice looking.

B. Stanley – Bank of lightbulbs at Rustcraft will be replaced, they will be done by tomorrow night.

Parks – have had many compliments on Riverdale Churchill, Paul Park & Memorial

- Looking for seasonal employees, we do not pay enough

- We would like to have two more Teams for the Recreation Men’s Softball League

- Car accident at the driveway of the Dolan Center, someone hit the mailbox

J. Briggs asked if it was it someone turning in?

B. Stanley answered that it was a car coming from Needham and turned into the driveway.

J. Briggs stated there is a sight line issue.

Director stated Town Buildings may open at the end of May or June.

Police stated that they have money to donate to Flag Day Parade. We cannot have a parade this year, we are returning money asking for funds to get back next year for fireworks.

C. Dello Iacono asked that the Director thank everyone for all they are doing, Parks are doing a terrific job.

B. Stanley stated the two new guys are working out well, they work Overtime & take pride in their work hopes to have seasonal employees soon.

Chairwoman Moran asked to thank Frank for cleaning pipes & putting barrels at Greenlodge. She asked about Security Cameras at Gonzalez.

B. Stanley answered that it is Big Capitol project or do having cameras at fields in difficult hard drives need to be kept above thirty-two degrees – Can be expensive, extremely expensive.

L. Farnham asked if there was a possibility of a Ring Camera or Nest Camera near the concession stand –

B. Stanley. RK Building had no cameras.

L. Moran – Asked about Fiber Ring, does that come into play?

B. Stanley Would love cameras at fields.

Chairwoman Moran – Keep safety / security cameras on the Radar.

A. O’Connell made a motion to accept the Director’s Report with a second to the motion by J. Briggs, all voted in favor, after a roll call vote.

Assistant Director Report

No Report, as Assistant Director/Program Director is unable to attend

Chairwoman Moran asked if the Director knew if letters had gone out to previous employees.

Director stated that he believes so, and they were working on salaries being upgraded.

C. Dello Iacono stated that it is a perfect time, since Covid awaking to add more Park benches for cribbage, card games, cribbage etc., have craft nights and paint classes at the Dolan Center.

Old Business

A. O’Connell gave an update on the Town Master Plan Committee.

J. Briggs stated that Master Plan meetings Commissioners should be part of the conversation when talks of the Capen school are discussed.

C. Dello Iacono Asked to add the Parks and Recreation Master Plan to the Monthly Agenda. He recommended discussing different categories of the Master Plan monthly to help develop strategies to follow the plan.

J. Briggs recommends to start with Goals and Chapter F first

Lisa M agreed to put the Master Plan on future Agendas

C. Dello Iacono stated that Gonzalez Field after a hard winter . a lot of trash from Route One gets blown onto the field. He recommends the Director look into purchasing “Scrim” netting to prevent trash from getting onto Gonzales field.

J. Briggs stated the Swing is missing at Condon.

B. Stanley answered that he confirmed today that swing is missing, Frank looking for parts.

Paul Yandrisevits – Want fence removed we understand grass will suffer on the field, but feel it is safer.

Suzanne McRae – Stated it would be better to have an extra entrance and exit to the fields and to the portable restroom.

Chairwoman Moran stated that they can remove the fence for the Spring and discuss after the season.

J. Briggs asked to share the scavenger hunt photos on social media to get more interest.

New Business –

C. Dello Iacono asked about the Back-pack program still exist for flyers to be sent home through the schools?

T. White – Responded that if you send the flyer to the Superintendent Office, if it is approved, it will be sent to the families via the weekly emails.

J. Briggs made a motion to adjourn with a second by A. O’Connell, all voted in the affirmative after a roll call vote.