

Parks & Recreation Department

Dedham Recreation Center

269 Common Street

781-751-9250



Robert Stanley
Director

Debra Anderson
Assistant & Program Director

Tracey White
Administrative Assistant

February 8, 2021

Virtual Meeting via: Zoom

Present:

Lisa Moran – Vice Chairman
Chuck Dello Iacono

Jonathan Briggs

Alix O’Connell

Robert Stanley – Director

Debra Anderson – Asst. Director

Tracey White – Assistant to the Director

Absent:

Tye Donahue - Chairman

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

Public Comment

Paul Yandrisevits, the past President of Dedham Youth Soccer thanked Director Stanley, Administrative Assistant White, and the Commissioners for all that they have done for the past three years to assist him and to the youth of Dedham, with securing field times, and to the Parks Department for maintenance of the fields.

Minutes

January Minutes will be voted on at the March meeting.

Permits

A. O'Connell stated that she is no longer a Dedham Youth Lacrosse Board Member, however she will not be voting on the Lacrosse Permit this evening, as she has just recently resigned from the Lacrosse Board.

L. Moran asked T. White to go over the Permits.

The following organizations and Directors were in attendance:

Dedham High School – Steve Traister	Ursuline Academy – Mike O'Connor
Dedham Youth Football – Bob Dugan	Dedham Youth Soccer – Jay DeAngelis
Dedham Girls Softball – Chuck Stronach	Dedham Youth Baseball – Heath Purdy
Woman's Adult Soccer – Lisa Arena	

J. Briggs stated that they could vote each group as they are presented.

C. Dello Iacono stated he agrees with J. Briggs but ask that all stay until the end of the Permits part of the meeting.

T. White shared that after speaking to Athletic Director Traister, All Youth Organization Presidents, and all that have requested field time, it has been worked out to the schedules that have been sent to all Commissioners.

S. Traister stated he did not have the final schedules yet, however, would send it to the Parks & Recreation Office as soon as it was complete.

The Commissioners voted as follows:

Dedham High School schedule – Motion to accept by C. Dello Iacono, second by J. Briggs, all voted in the affirmative to accept the schedule that was sent to them.

Ursuline Academy schedule– Motion by J. Briggs to accept, second by C. Dello Iacono

A . O'Connell asked why Ursuline was listed after the High School, and thought it was High School then youth organizations

T. White answered that Commissioner O'Connell was correct, however Ursuline requests time right after school hours and Youth Groups do not ask for time before 5:15 pm on weeknights so it just makes it easier for her to make schedule that way. Dedham High & Middle School are given priority then Dedham Youth Organizations, then adult groups and rentals

Commissioners all voted in the affirmative to accept the schedule that was sent to them.

Parks & Recreation has a few times during the days and a couple of weekend times, they do not need a permit, just wanted to share that with the Commissioners.

T. White stated that if the High School does not need Gonzalez until 6pm, the organizations that had permits for those days could start earlier and give each other extra time on the field

J. Briggs asked that the heads of the organizations can state that they are ok with the proposed schedule.

S. Traister stated yes, M. O'Connor stated yes, J. DeAngelis stated yes.

Dedham Youth Soccer schedule – C. Dello Iacono made a motion to accept, second by J. Briggs, all voted in the affirmative to accept the schedule that schedule that was sent to them.

B. Dugan stated that he agreed with the proposed schedule.

Dedham Youth Football – C. Dello Iacono made a motion to accept, second by J. Briggs, all voted in the affirmative to accept the schedule that schedule that was sent to them.

T. White stated that Softball & Baseball work together on days they may need to switch a field.

Chuck Stronach stated that Softball works well with Dedham Youth Baseball, and schedule is ok.

Dedham Girls Softball - C. Dello Iacono made a motion to accept, second by J. Briggs, all voted in the affirmative to accept the schedule that schedule that was sent to them.

T. White stated that there will be no snow fence at Collins Field, and that there are times on the schedule that multiple organizations on the same field however can use different areas of the field.

L. Moran stated that the permits are only until June 30th.

Dedham Youth Baseball – A. O'Connell made a motion to accept, second by C. Dello Iacono, all voted in the affirmative to accept the schedule that schedule that was sent to them. L. Moran abstained from the vote as she is a volunteer for DYB.

Soccer Sistas will use Lower Memorial unless Gonzalez becomes available, then they will use Gonzalez.

Soccer Sistas - Motion by J. Briggs to accept, second by C. Dello Iacono all voted in the affirmative to accept the schedule that was sent to them.

B. O'Connell was unable to attend at the time, however a vote can be taken and revisit if Mr. O'Connell can come on when he is able.

A' O'Connell stated that she had B. O'Connell on the phone, Mr. O'Connell stated via phone (all could hear him) state that he was fine with the schedule as proposed.

Dedham Youth Lacrosse - C. Dello Iacono made a motion to accept, second by J. Briggs, all voted in the affirmative to accept the schedule that schedule that was sent to them. A. O'Connell abstained from the vote.

C. Dello Iacono stated that he appreciated the Organizations working together and to let the Office know if there are any changes or someone does not need a permitted time.

M. O'Connor thanked Director Stanley and Admin Assist. White for all the assistance

L. Moran thanked T. White for the time working on the schedule and making it an easy process.

J. Briggs thanked T. White for putting together the schedule.

Code of Conduct

A. O'Connell asked for a vote on the Code of Conduct that has been previously sent to the Commissioners and approved by Town Council.

Motion by A. O'Connell, second by J. Briggs

A. O'Connell voted yes.

J. Briggs voted yes.

C. Dello Iacono voted no.

L. Moran voted no.

T. White stated that a tie vote does not pass, according to Town Clerk Paul Munchbach.

J. Briggs asked that since it was a vote, without all members present, can it be brought back for a future vote?

T. White stated that it can be brought back for a reconsideration, just not sure of the timeframe. Will check for clarification with Town Clerk Munchbach.

Dog Park Committee

C. Dello Iacono stated that interviews for Dog Park Committee candidates were done at a prior meeting, he likes all five candidates, and would like to make a motion to vote for all five candidates, then having six members

J. Briggs stated that it is an Advisory Committee, and a split vote of that group wouldn't really be an issue as they would know the way each voted and why, the way the committee was set up originally was a four-member committee, do we have any legality issue? it could end up being a ten-person Committee.

C. Dello Iacono stated that we do not want ten people, it was once a fourteen people committee, and that was difficult.

J. Briggs stated that they were going to vote as a Commission on recommendations from that group.

A. O'Connell stated that if the vote from the working committee was known she is fine.

C. Dello Iacono stated that there would be a Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary so minutes will be taken.

L. Moran asked if the vote was four or five vote this evening.

C. Dello Iacono stated the vote would be for four and reach out to the Town Manager to post again.

L. Moran asked if a second post were made, would it open it up too many others applying.

J. Briggs stated that it was posted for four, we need to stick with the four for a vote, vote on that, and if we post again, we could end up with five more great candidates, we could end up with many more applying we should stick to the four, and if later we want to add more then we can discuss it.

C. Dello stated that he would like to read the names and accept them all into nominations and then vote on the top four.

Karen Plescia, Julie Gauvin, Lindsay LoPorto, David Kurzman and Rosaline Hansen

C. Dello Iacono made a motion to put each of the five into nomination to be on the Dog Park Committee. With a second by J. Briggs, it was a unanimous vote.

J. Briggs asked how the vote would be taken.

C. Dello Iacono stated that the vote would be as the Selectman voted for the Library Trustee, giving their top votes and then tally all votes.

Each commissioner will give their top four candidates and then tally the top four members.

J. Briggs – L. LoPorto, D. Kurzman, R. Hansen, K. Plescia

A. O’Connell -L, LoPorto, J. Gauvin, D. Kurzman, R. Hansen

C. Dello Iacono – D. Kurzman, R. Hansen, J. Gauvin, K. Plescia

L. Moran – L. LoPorto, R. Hansen, D. Kurzman, J. Gauvin

The four highest votes went to D. Kurzman – four votes, Rosaline Hansen – four votes, Julie Gauvin – three votes, Lindsay LoPorto – three votes, and Karen Plescia – two votes

J. Briggs stated that it is important to let them know that it is a temporary Dog Park that has turned in a permanent Dog Park.

Meetings will be posted, and anyone can attend and voice their opinions and comment.

Director’s Report

Director Stanley stated the following:

- windows at the pool have been completed and facilities has signed off on the project.
- HVAC at the pool has had a few delays, hoping to have a soft opening, about the first of May and to gear up for June and July programs
- Dolan Center roof project has two temporary support beams put in; the building is safe.
- He has a meeting with the new Finance Director on Thursday to discuss the budget.
- Parks Department is gearing up to get the fields up and ready for the Spring season.
- By mid-March will have the stolen net replaced at Gonzalez
- Possibly have the basketball backboards and nets replaced at Churchill and Paul Parks
- Parks Department has half of the staff out due to Covid-19 quarantining.

C. Dello Iacono stated that the windows look awesome and the HVAC will be great.

Director Stanley stated that is the HVAC AND new ventilation system.

A. O’Connell asked if there was a procedure to notify leagues of the procedures for field protocols.

Director Stanley stated that they follow the state guidelines, and it is easy enough to notify league Presidents of those guidelines, it was almost impossible to do so with people who hadn't pulled permits that had just went to use the fields.

J. Briggs stated that had been youth organizations that had not followed the guidelines, maybe a good idea to have more signage at the fields.

L. Moran asked if they could start receiving the weekly email updates again.

Director Stanley stated he would start to do so

A. O'Connell asked about possibility of tennis courts being used as pickle ball courts.

Director stated that the tennis courts are used by the High School and not sure of the being able to work, they have two sets of pickle ball equipment at the Dolan Center that has only been asked to use once or maybe twice, it is something that can be investigated again.

J. Briggs stated maybe at the Dolan Center.

Motion to accept the Directors Report by C. Dello Iacono, with a second by J. Briggs, roll call vote, all voting in the affirmative

Assistant Director's Report

Assistant & Program Director Debra Anderson shared the following:

- Registration will begin on February 15th for Swim & Gym; it will be two weeks for Dedham residents before it opens to others.
- Free Playgrounds will have to have children be registered to participate.
- Clippers will have 24 per age group.
- LL Bean will be doing mapping, Kayaking, canoeing & archery.
- There will be a mini tots stem & Soccer program.
- Mini chefs will be starting a new session.
- Partnering with the Dedham Police Department for the annual Bike Rodeo, and possibly having regular summer program with the Resource Officer at the High School or at Paul Park.
- Dance we are working to come up with some type of plan for a recital of sorts, we don't have an option as of yet.

J. Briggs asked if LL Bean will be doing kayaking & canoeing.

D. Anderson stated they are going to try.

J. Briggs asked if she could get a confirmation.

L. Moran asked if it was 24 Clippers per age group or at a practice.

D. Anderson stated that it was for practices.

L. Moran asked if there was a flyer.

D. Anderson stated yes there was a flyer.

J. Briggs made a motion to accept the Assistant Director's Report, with a second by C. Dello Iacono, all voted in the affirmative to accept the report.

Old Business

C. Dello Iacono asked about the Flag Day Parade, and if it had made it into this year budget.

Director Stanley stated he is not sure how active the Flag Day Group has been, he is 75% sure there will be no parade in 2021, however the plan is to have fireworks next year.

C. Dello Iacono stated that the fireworks were a great investment for the Town, it was a terrific event, one that his parents were able to see from their from porch.

J. Briggs asked if possible that DCR would paint Pickle ball on the tennis courts at Riverdale Park or possible to paint at the Dolan Center.

L. Moran stated that she and Alix O'Connell had met and have started work on the Parks & Recreation Policies

New Business

C. Dello Iacono stated that he believes the deadline for warrant articles was soon.

J. Briggs stated that they should request funds to have a report done on reconfiguring the current fields.

A. O'Connell stated that maybe they wait until they see what the schools are doing.

J. Briggs stated that they need to move ahead, we need to see what to do with Parks & Recreation properties, we need to follow the Master Plan, that needs to be the direction for the Commission.

A. O'Connell asked if he was talking about moving forward with the Striar properties.

j. Briggs stated that there needs to be a study from a professional on how to best use the land that Parks & Recreation land

A. O'Connell asked when the warrant deadline was.

C. Dello Iacono that we should ask for a placeholder for the warrant.

L. Moran thanked Dedham Cable TV for recording all the Zoom meetings.

C. Dello Iacono made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a second by J. Briggs, a role call vote was taken:

C. Dello Iacono voted yes.

J. Briggs voted yes.

A. O'Connell voted yes.

L. Moran voted yes.

Zoom Meeting ended.