

Parks & Recreation Department

Dedham Recreation Center

269 Common Street

781-751-9250



Robert Stanley
Director

Debra Anderson
Assistant & Program Director

Tracey White
Administrative Assistant

January 11, 2021

Virtual Meeting via : Zoom

Present:

Tye Donahue- Chairman
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

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."

Chairman Donahue explained the process of the Interviews and how that

Roll Call Attendance:

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

Public Comment: none

Minutes presented for November 9, 2020, December 7, 2020 & December 23, 2020

C. Dello Iacono made motion to accept the November 9, 2020, December 7, 2020 & December 23, 2020 Meeting Minutes, with a second by J. Briggs, all Commissioners voted in the affirmative

Sarah MacDonald, Jessica Porter and Jeremy Rosenberg made a presentation regarding Planning Board Master Plan Update and the

J. Rosenberg stated that Commissioner A. O'Connell is the liaison from the Parks & Recreation Commission

Presentation is attached to these Minutes.

Sub Committee Update

C. Dello Iacono asked about monthly updates in the past, however, has thought about it and possibly have it go through the Policy Committee.

J. Briggs stated that when there are updates, they should be shared as they come up

C. Dello Iacono stated there are thirteen Sub-Committees, it would be difficult to ask for all to give an update each month.

A. O'Connell stated that in should be a permanent part of our Agenda.

J. Briggs thought that it was always done under Old Business.

Chairman Donahue stated that any Commissioner has the right to ask for something to be put on the Agenda.

L. Moran stated that it may be something that is listed on the Agenda, whether anyone has anything to add

Director and Commissioner Goals

A. O'Connell – Have a space on the Town Website to put more communication with the community.

J, Briggs stated make the goals more definitive, would you ask.

A. O'Connell add more information to the Town Website, to reach a broad scope of the community. more of events, more of the Programs

Director Stanley stated that we can add things to website, there are new website policies so make it a bit easier, we can do that.

A. O'Connell would like more coordination with the

L. Moran more timelines, and possibly have a checklist to be specific.

J, Briggs stated for tighten up a marketing plan, how we market our programs, put up as many places as we can, and where would that be.

L. Moran stated that requirement, such as times, dates, cost etc.

J. Briggs have some type of capitol plan for playground equipment replacements, knowing where we will have to put money into, Master Plan states bringing in equipment for all the Community, what a ten-year plan

A. O'Connell what maintenance plans are going forward, what a need are, such as a timeline.

J. Briggs stated the Master Plan calls for that, such as redesigning the parks.

Director Stanley stated that we have put in new irrigation systems, and what maintenance for that is, we need to replace playgrounds soon, such as Memorial Playground needs to be completely redone. Infrastructure needs to be done; a Plan does need to be done.

C. Dello Iacono stated that he appreciates all that the Director does for the Department and Town, he would like to see the Director reorganize his office, thinks that the Director does a terrific job.

Chairman Donahue wants to see how the department will recover some of the finances that we lost out on due to Covid-19, how will Programs work, you and Program Director will have to work to get back on track

Director Stanley stated the biggest challenge to recover from, most of our programs either were cancelled or got cut in half, staffing will be an issue, we lost a year of development on staff. Have been discussing with the Program Director how to recover and rebuild our programs.

L. Moran stating that planning, and have many different options for programs, Clippers for example is a concern, many kids have moved on to other swim programs. Would like to see more streamlined financial reports, it is critical.

Director stated that he can work on getting those done.

T. Donahue asked if this was a long-term goal.

L. Moran stated as a long-term goal.

A. O'Connell stated she would like to see more financials on the revolving funds.

J. Briggs stated he would like to see more programs based on natural resources, such as geo caching, nature walks, there are a lot of outdoor activities that we could do for a various age groups.

C. Dello Iacono stated those are great ideas.

L. Moran stated that there are apps that can be done, scavenger hunts like she did over the spring and summer.

J. Briggs stated that scavenger hunts were done for Trails Days, activities that can be done at various parks.

A. O'Connell stated a map, for all parks, trails and all properties.

J. Briggs stated that it is an Open Spaces plan, it is in the Master Plan to do connecting maps, there are many areas that have maps that need to be put together to show the connectivity for all areas. Commissioner goals need to support the Director goals, how can we make this happen.

Chairman Donahue will compile a list of all goals and send to all Commissioner Goals.

L. Moran stated the trails are being used much more than ever before.

J. Briggs stated how do we get through different parts of fields, such as walkways at Memorial & Rustcraft.

Chairman Donahue stated that we need to reevaluate the fields, and see what we do, we need to be more proactive.

A. O'Connell we need to work more with the School Department, on their plans for fields.

L. Moran stated that frisbee golf, maybe we could find an area.

J. Briggs stated that we have many areas we could do that; it would be an investment for a new activity.

L. Moran stated that she does not think that other departments do not always know what each other know what other departments are doing.

Chairman Donahue stated Personnel issues are not for a Public

L. Moran stated that she is not thinking that is not meant as a personal issue.

A. O'Connell the safety and security of equipment at various fields, review what equipment is at the fields.

Chairman Donahue stated he will put together a list and discuss at the February meeting. Commissioner Goals

J. Briggs stated he thinks to do the Commissioner Goals should be done after, as they should support the Director's Goal.

C. Dello Iacono under Master Plan, Section A, we need to work on those.

L. Moran stated that Commission Goals should be supporting the Director Goals.

Director's Report

- Projects such as pool project is moving along.
- Windows are almost completed, lets more sunlight in and can be opened on the bottom.
- Pool was drained and cleaned the bottom of pool; we will clean again after HVAC is complete.
- Scaffolding is put up to do work on ventilation.

- HVAC system will be behind the pool, not on the roof.
- Timetable is end of March or the beginning of April.
- Hopefully open for lap/open swim and not programs yet and gear up for the summer.
- Hoping for a smooth summer programs
- Budget week, submitting finances,
- Asked to Level fund, there are some that we cannot do that sometimes there are a cost for our Special Needs programs, revolving programs sometimes be costly, we have to provide things within reason, revolving funds are difficult, we were going to ask for a line-item transfer for these.
- Fields and permits are coming in, and more permits than ever, the Admin. Assistant is already working on this, Gonzalez has high requests.
- Working with Baseball to discuss maintenance issues.

L. Moran stated that the photographs are great and would like to share on Clippers Facebook page, and the pool seems to be a bit behind schedule.

Director stated that there are maintenance issues to take care of, as painting lines in the pool, filling the pool takes a week, April to be a soft opening, there are also staff issue, we want member to come back, and bring back the Clippers.

L. Moran asked about a pipe at on the deck on the pool, that needs to be replaced.

Director stated that is a major project, the entire deck would need to be torn up, and then it could end up being a huge project. It is not that critical currently.

C.Dello Iacono stated the photos at the pool are great, the budget is of concern do not want to go back. Concerned about the Permits, Commissioners need to have the permits in hand long before the Friday before the meeting. Please reach out to Pop Warner

Director stated he has been working with T. White on the permits

T. White stated that she has already spoken to most Youth groups and High School and we should have things wrapped up long before the February meeting,

C.Dello Iacono made a motion to accept the Director's Report, with a second by L. Moran, all voted in the affirmative

Assistant Director Report

- All Dance Classes are going strong, looking for a Dance Recital Option, working on something, Karate and Gymnastics are running and have had no issues
- Mini Chefs is running well
- Working with the Director on different Options for Summer Programs
- Thanked Commissioners for their assistance in Santa calls 350 children were called

- Holiday stories were great, all holidays were represented.

L. Moran stated it was great, and very inter active.

A. O'Connell asked about Wrestling.

D. Anderson stated it is not an approved activity at this time, if we are able to run in the Spring than we will do so.

C. Dello Iacono was happy with the Santa calls,

J. Briggs asked about the mailer that is to be sent out twice a year.

D. Anderson stated that we are still working on it, will be done by February school break.

J. Brigg asked if there will be any activities during February break.

D. Anderson stated that she can speak to the Youth Commission and the Police Department on what they can do together.

J. Briggs asked if maybe LL Bean could do something.

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

Old Business

C.Dello Iacono asked about equipment at Gonzalez field and stated he saw some at Iacono Park.

J. Briggs stated that he needs engineering plans for Gonzalez, and R. Stanley was able to find the old plans.

A. O'Connell stated the Dedham Square Revitalization Committee, was meeting on February 9, at 7:00 pm, discussing green space, how much Open/Green Spaces

New Business

Chairman Donahue stated that a meeting date is needed for the Dog Park Committee, January 20th at 7:00 pm, and the regular meeting on February 8, 2021.

C. Dello Iacono made a motion to adjourn, with a second by L. Moran all voted in the affirmative.

Zoom meeting ended.