

Parks & Recreation Department

Dedham Recreation Center

269 Common Street

781-751-9250



Robert Stanley
Director

Debra Anderson
Assistant & Program Director

Tracey White
Administrative Assistant

July 12, 2021

Virtual Meeting via Zoom participants

Present:

Absent

Lisa Moran - Chairwoman
Chuck Dello Iacono– Vice Chairman
Alix O’Connell – Secretary - via Zoom
Jonathan Briggs
Lisa Farnham – via Zoom
Robert Stanley – Director
Debra Anderson – Asst. Director – via Zoom
Tracey White – Assistant to the Director

Chairwoman Lisa Moran asked for a Roll call vote as the meeting was hybrid (in person and via Zoom).

Commissioner Dello Iacono stated present.

Commissioner Briggs stated present.

Commissioner O’Connell stated present.

Commissioner Farnham stated present.

Chairwoman Moran stated present.

Public Comment

Rita Mae Cushman asked to be able to light the few trees at Hartnett Square for National Night Out.

James Maher stated that he was a former Parks & Recreation Commissioner, and was at the meeting for three reasons:

1. Has tried for the past year to get the results of the Executive session minutes and all documents from when he was censured by the Board. Until he gets those documents, he cannot prove his innocence that he did nothing wrong and that he will not stop until he has them.

2. He stated that he requested an audit from the Finance Department and the Town Managers Office of missing cash of the Parks & Recreation Commissioner. This is money that came from summer playground programs from 2017. 2018 and 2019. This is cash that was taken from children for their lunch and never deposited to the General Fund. Where did that money go to? Now that the Town is taking action against town employees who have misplaced or stolen money, he think it is a good time for the Town to take a deeper look into where this missing cash has gone.

3. All costs for Programs need to drop by 15 to 25%. When the Program Director position was eliminated, Sal Ledda and Mr. Maher had to negotiate with the Commissioners and Finance Committee to keep that position, as a commission we always tried to make the costs now that the position is paid by the Town if the Commission chooses not to do that, he would like to see the data that proves otherwise.

He stated that he will be at every meeting until he receives the documents, that he needs to prove with the public and public opinion that he did no wrong. I have been tortured by the public for the past year, and he has no problem coming before the Board for the next 18 years.

Chairwoman Moran thanked Mr. Maher.

Minutes

C. Dello Iacono motioned to accept June Minutes, with a few corrections, J. Briggs made a second to the motion.

Commissioner

Commissioner O'Connell voted yes.

Commissioner Farnham voted yes.

Commissioner Briggs voted yes.

Commissioner Dello Iacono voted yes.

All voted in favor, including Chairwoman Moran, and the motion passed to accept the June Minutes.

Permits

Dedham Youth Hockey President Jeff Klaus asked to place a few signs on parks properties for their "Learn to Skate and Skating Programs", starting on July 22nd.

Chairman Moran asked if they were the same size as campaign signs.

Mr. Klaus answered that they were the same size.

Commissioner Farnham asked if they would be placed in the same locations as years past.

Mr. Klaus answered that they would.

Commissioner Dello Iacono stated that he had no issues with the signs however to please keep the Director in the loop and keep in mind if using the Oakdale Square Veteran's Park to get the blessing of the Veteran's Agent, Joe Hamilton.

Motion to allow Dedham Youth Hockey to put signs on various Parks & Recreation properties.

Motion made by Commissioner Farnham, with a second by Commissioner Briggs. Chairwoman Moran asked for a Roll Call Vote.

Commissioner O'Connell voted yes.

Commissioner Farnham voted yes.

Commissioner Briggs voted yes.

Commissioner Dello Iacono voted yes.

The Chairwoman voted yes, the motion passed to allow Dedham Youth Hockey to place signs at various Parks & Recreation properties.

Dolan Center Canoe & Kayak Racks

Commissioner O'Connell stated that Town Counsel approved the registration paperwork.

Commissioner Briggs stated that it would be free this season, as a usual season is May 1 – October 1.

It was decided to begin the 19th of July.

Commissioner Briggs made a motion to begin the inaugural season of the Canoe/Kayak Storage Racks, beginning July 19th – October 1st. Second to the Motion by A. O'Connell

Commissioner O'Connell voted yes.

Commissioner Farnham voted yes.

Commissioner Briggs voted yes.

Commissioner Dello Iacono voted yes.

The Chairwoman voted yes and the motion passed.

James Maher stated from the audience that he thought it would be fair for each precinct to be given the same number of spaces and not that one precinct be given all the spots.

Commissioner Briggs stated that it would be like any other program and offered to the entire community at the same time. There are 18 racks at the moment and if more are needed in the future, then they could be built.

William Gould Sign - Discussion & Vote

Former Parks & Recreation Commissioner Dan Hart stated that he and Brian Keaney had approached the Commissioners about naming a Park in the memory of William B. Gould - over a year ago - and appreciated the vote to make that happen. He was coming before the board to discuss the sign has been working on it with the Director. He would like to copy the maroon signs that are in the Condon Park.

Director spoke about the financing, and it would be about 5% of the Parks budget. He stated we would do whatever we could. But he said we don't know what else will come up unexpectedly.

The dedication is tentatively scheduled for between Sept 23-25th.

J. Briggs asked about the installation being \$3,000 – stating that this was a staggering cost – hoping there was another way (like our guys) to get it installed.

J. Briggs stated he wants to make sure that there are not extra costs after the installation. Will be needed to maintain and what will the costs be associated with the park with statues etc.

Commissioner Dello Iacono asked if the money was going out of this fiscal year, the Director stated that currently we have a full budget. We just do not know what will come down the road.

Chuck made the motion to have the department pay for the sign. Alix 2nd the motion.

Commissioner O'Connell voted yes.

Commissioner Farnham voted yes.

Commissioner Briggs voted yes.

Commissioner Dello Iacono voted yes.

The Chairwoman voted yes, and the motion passed.

Director's Review

Chairwoman Moran stated that this would be discussed at the next meeting

Committee Updates

Chairwoman Moran asked James Maher, in the audience, if he would like to give an update on the Manor playground.

Quick update by Mr. Maher said that equipment would be in 9/15 and completion date is 11/15. The offices of Senator Rush & McMurtry stated that there is \$125,000 for the playground in the State Budget.

James Maher gave an update on where the Manor Playground project was and hopefully to be open by November 2021.

Pool Director Report

Chairwoman Moran read an update from our Aquatic Director that included:

Swim & Gym is running well

The first Clipper Meet went great

Diving and water aerobics are doing well

Lifeguard classes were full and hoping to add more classes in the later summer

Assist Director Report

The All- Day Program is running well

Weather has been an issue so playgrounds haven't been open as often as usual

Will be able to open to field trips and pool visits

There will be two running clinics at the High School Track on August 3rd & 17th

The flyer will be done later July or early August

We still will be working with the Police Dept on Wednesday evenings at Churchill

DOSA event in August

Friends are excited for Dedham Day it is a go – 9/26/21

Commissioner L. Moran asked if there was a schedule for the All-Day Program & the Park Playgrounds

D. Anderson stated there is a different schedule for each

Chairwoman Moran is asked if it could be put on the Facebook page

Commissioner J. Briggs if Dedham Day will be any changes

D. Anderson stated she will ask the Friends, however she stated there will probably be changes

Commissioner L. Farnham asked if Tennis was being held

D. Anderson stated there has been cancellations due to rain, however they try to make up the classes

J. Briggs asked if the program flyer could be sent to the Commissioners prior to it being sent out & Debbie agreed

C. Dello made a motion to accept the Assist Directors Report, with a second by L. Farnham.

Roll Call vote:

Commissioner O'Connell voted yes.

Commissioner Dello Iacono voted yes.

Commissioner Briggs voted yes.

Commissioner Farnham voted yes.

The Chairwoman voted yes.

Director's Report

Director Stanley stated that the Dolan Center roof bids came way over the money that was allocated

Chairwoman Moran asked how much over

Director Stanley stated that there was \$400, 000. and he believes they are at about \$600,000.

Commissioner Dello Iacono stated this has been about four years

Park Fields are in good condition and receiving compliments on the fields

Irrigation at Memorial Park needs a new pump

J. Briggs stated that the Dolan Center roof is in disrepair and Facilities needs to get on that, asked if they need to go to Selectman's meeting?

Director Stanley stated that Pool was a top priority last year, and the roof situation is impacting our programs

Commissioner J. Briggs asked if moving across town to another building could be an option

Commissioner Dello Iacono asked if it is a safe building was as far as mold and mildew

Commissioner Dello Iacono made a motion to accept the Director's Report, with a second by Commissioner Briggs

Chairwoman Moran asked for a role call vote

Commissioner L. Farnham voted yes

Commissioner O'Connell votes yes

Commissioner Briggs voted yes

Commissioner Dello Iacono voted yes

Chairwoman Moran voted yes

Old Business

The food pantry is a great size – it's up and full and in use.

New Business

Commissioner Dello Iacono stated that he noticed sponsorship signs at Churchill Park and stated that there was no permission given and had asked the Director to look into it.

Chairwoman Moran stated the pool looks great however at the Clipper swim meet it seemed hot

Director Stanley stated that it was set at a specific temperature, and he would check into it

J. Briggs asked about timeline programming for Dedham TV plans, and could they plan on days that the kids or activities that were going on

Chairwoman stated that the next meeting would be August 16, 2021

C. Dello Iacono made a motion to adjourn with a second by J. Briggs

Chairwoman Moran asked for a roll call vote

Commissioner L. Farnham voted yes

Commissioner O'Connell votes yes

Commissioner Briggs voted yes

Commissioner Dello Iacono voted yes

Chairwoman Moran voted yes