

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 12, 2021

Virtual Meeting via: Zoom

Present:

Lisa Moran- Chairwoman
Chuck Dello Iacono – Vice Chair
Alix O’Connell- Secretary
Jonathan Briggs
Lisa Farnham
Robert Stanley – Director

Absent:

Debra Anderson – Program Director
Tracey White – Administrative Assistant

Chairman Moran opened the meeting by reading the Governors statement:

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting will be conducted via remote means. Members of the public who wish to access the meeting may do so by using the Zoom link or phone number via computer or mobile device as posted on the meeting agenda that can be found on the Town website calendar. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, for reasons of economic hardship and despite best efforts, we will post on the Town of Dedham website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

Attendance taken:

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

Public Comment- none

Minutes – None

Permits

Dedham High School asked to use Memorial Park and the Pool Field, Director Stanley stated that there was space at the requested questions

Motion to accept the revised Permit by C. Dello Iacono, with a second by J. Briggs

Commissioner Dello Iacono voted yes Commissioner Briggs voted yes
Commissioner O'Connell voted yes Commissioner Farnham voted yes
Chairwoman Moran voted yes

Chairwoman Moran stated that there was a wrestling permit that came in after the agenda was posted. Director Stanley stated that if there is a Youth Organization, the Parks & Recreation does not run the same program.

Steve Heaslip stated that the permit is no longer needed

Stephanie Radner stated that she will be purchasing pollinator garden kits and wishes to plant them around town, some on Parks & Recreation parks. Joe Flanagan stated that he would help with watering.

My project is simple, and I think it will benefit the entire community. I am also seeking similar "nods of approval" from the Town Manager, Select Board, DPW, and several other boards, committees, etc...

I want to plant 4 or 5 small native plant pollinator gardens at various locations around Dedham with educational signage about the importance of native plants and beneficial pollinator insects.

I also hope to bring a speaker to the Dedham Public Library next year to talk about a related subject (creating a pollinator garden, native plants and habitats, or a similar subject).

I will also donate several important books to the Dedham Public Library about the role of native plants in our ecosystem and maybe a couple field guides to leave at the Dolan Center.

I haven't selected the specific locations, but I have several in mind that I think will work well, pending discussion and approval by all relevant jurisdictional boards.

Possible locations:

- William B. Gould Memorial Park - the area in the middle of the park where the tree stump was ground is the perfect size for a garden (about 75 square feet)
- Endicott Community Greenhouse - there is an existing butterfly garden which is very small; I could add plants to expand the garden for beneficial pollinators
- Bonham Road - there is an area near the end of Bonham Road where DPW has been working to remove Japanese knotweed. After removing invasive species, it is critical to replace the unwanted plant so it would be a perfect opportunity to add some native plants suitable for the moist soil to become established in that location.
- Mother Brook Arts and Community Center - there is an existing garden behind the building, but some areas are bare, it might be nice to fill in spots with native wildflowers

- Dedham Housing Authority at O'Neil Drive - I often walk around O'Neil Drive and there are many gardeners and I wonder if there may be an interest in a native plant garden in this location
- Senior Center - I don't know what already exists, and there will be changes with construction, so I think this might be better to wait for the Public Safety Building to be complete; however, if the Senior Center would like a small garden, I'd love to add one there
- Trenton Road Playground - the Manor Neighborhood Group has been crowdfunding for their plantings so it would be great to contribute to their effort

So, all I need is for P&R to say they approve the concept - no specific site, although I'm open to suggestions. Anything not controversial is fine with me. If you think the Commissioners won't support the idea, that's fine, I can leave all P&R property off the list. The grant is due on Friday October 15, so if you don't meet before then or can't get a consensus vote, I will note that I was not able to get a vote from the P&R Commission but that will not preclude sites from selection

J. Briggs stated that he believed that the Commissioners were in support.

Discussion on where various areas would be good locations for the gardens.

S. Radner stated that she would need to put up some type of signage.

L. Farnham stated possibly use painted rocks

C. Dello Iacono stated Eagle Scouts are always a good resource

Chairwoman Moran asked that Mrs. Radner return in the future to discuss signage for the gardens.

Motion made by C. Dello Iacono with a second by L. Farnham

Roll calls vote taken

Commissioner Dello Iacono stated yes Commissioner Briggs stated yes
 Commissioner O'Connell stated yes Commissioner Farnham stated yes
 Chairwoman Moran stated yes

Quarterly Budget Report

Revolving Accounts

Director Stanley explained how the Revolving Account works when monies come in for programs that money is spent on programs

Chairwoman Moran asked if reports could be run from specific dates, and if the Director would provide previous years.

A. O'Connell asked to see what monies come in for a program and to see the salary and costs for that program and how do we know the costs of the pool and the income.

Director stated that we can not get that information from the Munis System.

A. O'Connell asked how we tell if various programs are profitable, and possibly check with the Town Finance Office for that information.

Director Stanley stated that various employees make various salaries so that it is very difficult

Chairwoman Moran stated she would like to see a spreadsheet with the various programs

A. O'Connell asked what the Temporary Seasonal Employee line was for.

Director Stanley stated it was used for Seasonal Park employees, Free Playground employees and Pool employees

A. O'Connell stated she was not happy with how these reports are written.

Director Stanley stated he agrees and possibly can be changed in the future

L. Farnham asked what Program Services were

Director Stanley stated it was for the Flag Day Parade and the Ground Supplies line the variable line item, and must be watched very close at the end of the year

C. Dello Iacono stated that since the Town changed the system it has been difficult to get information.

Chairwoman Moran asked if it was current.

Director Stanley stated they were up to date reports

A. O'Connell asked about Non-Clerical Support Line

Director Stanley answered it was for Office Staff, Parks Employees and Pool Director

Committee Updates

Dedham Square Committee A. O'Connell stated that it would be a Town Green Space, not under the Parks & Recreation Space

Director Stanley answered that it appears that it would be maintained by the Department of Public Works.

J. Briggs stated that it should be funded by whatever Department will be maintaining the space.

Policy Sub Committee

Permits reported by A. O'Connell that the stated that it wasn't really changed other than language being cleaned up a bit

C. Dello Iacono asked about the permitting of the school fields, and that the Pool Field should not be on that list, as it is not used by a school for recess.

J. Briggs stated that it could be due to proximity to the school and time of release of students ????????

C. Dello Iacono stated that Field Rentals are not included on this permit.

Director Stanley stated that field rentals are done after the permit meeting, any extra time after Youth Groups then Rentals are given to organizations that pay, who are often groups that have Dedham residents participating. We then open to rentals such as HUB softball.

A. O'Connell asked if putting wording on the permit the way of how permits are issued

Chairwoman Moran asked about putting language in about blanket permitting.

C. Dello Iacono stated that it used to be not allowed and was for families to have time to use the fields that was suggested by former Commissioners Dan Hart.

C. Dello stated that there is language to let the office know if you are not using the fields, that you received a permit for.

J. Briggs questioned how we police the fields to see if it is being used when they requested time for.

C. Dello Iacono stated that there should be someone representing their organization.

L. Farnham asked to add the word "meeting", so as to let people know when permits need to be submitted

A. O'Connell stating that this is a Policy, however we can always change things as needed.

L. Farnham asked if it matters how the permits come in.

Director Stanley stated he preferred electronic submissions.

J. Briggs asked about nonprofit organizations, do we require liability insurance information.

A. O'Connell stated that non-profits are required to file with the State and Federal Government.

Director Stanley asked about groups that are not non-profit, or a league that doesn't have insurance

A. O'Connell stated that information can be gotten from the state

Director Stanley stated that he works with the insurance companies,

Signs

A. O'Connell used the Town sign code to come up with the sign policy.

C. Dello Iacono stated that does not apply to Parks & Recreation as these are temporary signs

J. Briggs stated that he does not believe that temporary sponsorship signs fall under the Town Code.

A. O'Connell asked about removing signs that are permanent.

C. Dello Iacono stated that have already gone through the process

A. O'Connell asked about signs that are on fencing such as at Memorial and Rustcraft

A. Connell stated that there should be language in one policy stating all signs, temporary and permanent signs, and differences.

Chairwoman Moran stated the back of the sign colors are listed as black or blue background

J. Briggs asked about sign & Permits being done at the same time. What about timing, maybe they come to the next meeting before signs go up.

C. Dello Iacono asked for the Director or Parks Foreman to make sure that inspection to be done to where a sign is placed to make sure that there is no question of damage. No storage on Parks property, such as the storage room at the Concession Stand at Rustcraft.

J. Briggs asked to change wording to may be disposed of not will be disposed of.

L. Farnham asked to have worded that Parks & Recreation will not put up or remove signs

C. Dello Iacono asked to have it put on the next Agenda

Master Plan

C. Dello Iacono asked if each Commissioner would pick an item and we could work on them each meeting

Pathfinder Report

K. Spencer stated that Ursuline will be hosting the track/walking club again, and it is always a great hit

mini chefs will be happening, and November is full

working with Karen on some ideas for things at the pool

J. Briggs asked about having a large canoe and getting children on the Charles River

K. Spencer answered that it was done with LL Bean in the past, and she is hoping to do that in the Spring again.

Pool Director Report

K. O'Connell via Chairwoman Moran

Swim Lessons are going well

Lifeguarding Classes are happening

Haunted House happening
Clippers starting November 1st
Birthday Birthdays are having
Master Swim classes

Assistant Director Report

Dedham Day was great – thanked the volunteers
Dance classes are starting this week
Gymnastics has been happening for the next few
Soccer Tots finishing up this week
Cardio Tennis will be starting up
Dolan Center is being used for Cheerleaders

A. O'Connell asked about pickleball, where Cardio Tennis is being held.

D. Anderson stated at the Oakdale school and the Tennis was not playing

J. Briggs about programs at the Dolan Center and how they will be affected with the repairs of the roof.

Director Stanley answered that he has been talking to Facilities about possibly doing smaller projects before larger repairs, we are unsure when they will be done. No decisions have been made.

Director Report

Would like someone from the Town would come to next meeting to discuss a future move to the Capen

C. Dello Iacono asked to have all interested parties should be invited meeting

Director Stanley stated that there are conversations of the Parks & Recreation moving to the Capen School, but a decision needs to be made about what is going to be done to the Dolan Center but keeping some presence at the Dolan Center.

Margaret Driscoll purchased items for the pool with her winnings from Dedham Day.

Considering new basketball equipment for Churchill and Paul Park such as new backboards and nets

Reserve Fund transfer for Fireworks. C. Dello asked what the cost of the fireworks may be.

Director Stanley stated about \$50,000. We will give back what we don't use. They are geared watching at Memorial Park.

Old Business

J. Briggs stated there was a piece of equipment that was unsteady at Gonzalez Field and it has been repaired. There will be a Grand Opening Ceremony on Friday at 11:30 am. Would like Commissioners to attend.

C. Dello Iacono thank everyone who helped with Dedham Day, and a heartfelt thanks to JuJu Mucciaccio. Wants to have something done with the signs on the Concession Stands at Memorial & Rustcraft. The Pathfinder Group can use those funds.

C. Dello Iacono want answer to why the Minutes are behind.

Chairwoman Moran stated they will be done for the next meeting.

Chairwoman Moran asked if the Director has reached out and spoke to Shari Laurent.

New Business

Date for the meeting, Tuesday the 16th of November.

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

Roll calls vote taken

Commissioner Dello Iacono stated yes Commissioner Briggs stated yes

Commissioner O'Connell stated yes Commissioner Farnham stated yes

Chairwoman Moran stated yes