

# *Dedham Parks & Recreation Department*

*Dolan Recreation Center  
269 Common Street  
781-751-9250*

*Mucciaccio Pool  
1 Recreation Road  
781-461-5991*



*Robert Stanley  
Director*

*Debra Anderson  
Assistant & Program  
Director*

*Tracey White  
Administrative Assistant*

September 13, 2021

Virtual Meeting via: Zoom

Present:

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

Absent:

Chairwoman Moran thanked Dedham Cable for recording the meetings

Commissioner Dello Iacono asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the tragedies of September 11, 2001.

Chairwoman Moran stated that the Charter Commission has recommended that the Director report to the Town Manager.

A. O’Connell stated that she agrees with the Charter Commission, and all would be better served if the Director reported to the Town Manager.

Commissioner Dello Iacono stated he does not agree, the hiring of the Director would then fall under the Board of Selectman. The Commission has not been represented fairly by Council, he would suggest a substitute motion and request their own Town Counsel.

L. Farnham asked what the Director thought of the change.

Director Stanley stated that he has gone back and forth over the years, he thinks it may serve the town well to report to the Town Manager. He is leaning toward the Charter Commission change.

Chairwoman Moran stated that she spoke to the Town Manager, and he stated that the Commissioners would not be left out of the hiring process in the future.

A. O'Connell stated that it would be an Advisory position of the Director.

C. Dello Iacono stated that the current Town Manager may not be in that position when it comes to the hiring in the future.

J. Briggs stated that there are pros and cons, and he doesn't see the negative in the Charter change, and he is in support of the change. If there were to be a substitute motion what would the timeline be?

It was answered that a placeholder could be put in the warrant and then be able to put in the proper wording.

C. Dello Iacono stated that a substitute motion could be made up until Town Meeting

Chair Moran stated that she was against the change, however she is now in favor of the Charter Commission recommendation. The Selectman have asked for the Commissioners to take a vote

J. Briggs stated he doesn't understand the need for this Board to take a vote on this.

L. Farnham asked to see the final language of the article

It was answered that the final language would be in the motion.

J. Briggs made a motion to take a vote in principle to support the change with a second by A. O'Connell

Roll call vote

Commissioner Dello Iacono stated no      Commissioner Briggs stated yes  
Commissioner O'Connell stated yes      Commissioner Farnham stated yes  
Chairwoman Moran stated yes

C. Dello Iacono stated that he appreciates all that the Director does and a proud moment was when the Director was able to help the Police Dept. by turning all the lights on at the various fields.

J. Briggs stated that outside of the day-to-day operations the department does so much for the community. He has received many compliments this year about the fields.

L. Farnham has asked many questions of the Director and appreciated the patience and assistance.

A. O'Connell stated that the Director does a great job, and that working together with the entire Department. So happy to see how things worked out with the retaining of the Pool Director.

Director stated that there are things that we can always be improved upon, and always working to improve

C. Dello Iacono made a motion to keep the Director in his position until June 30, 2022, with a second by L. Farnham

Roll Call vote

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

C. Dello Iacono stated he had asked Kristen Spencer, who runs the Pathfinder programs, to join us tonight.

Shari Laurent is inquiring if a playground could have some time for children with special needs set aside, for them to utilize the playground for safe places to play freely.

J. Briggs asked if it was the structures at the playgrounds or times that she is looking for.

A. O'Connell asked if there were play areas that she likes best.

S. Laurent stated that she does go to Memorial or sometimes Paul Park. Lately they have been going to the ECEC.

C. Dello thanked Shari for coming in and sharing her story, he stated the Condon has the Pour and Play surface. He stated that he had spoken Kristen Spencer who would be happy to work with her on this initiative.

Chairwoman stated that she appreciates S. Laurent for advocating for her son and all children with disabilities.

Director Stanley stated that in the future when new playgrounds are built these needs will be considered. It would be easy to have a few hours to etch out for this suggestion. He stated he could work with Shari to come up with a plan, and post signage with some notice. Possibly at those times have a staff member at the park.

A. O'Connell stated that she is hesitant to close a park and possibly there are families in the community that would be understanding and participate at the playgrounds at those times

Chairwoman Moran stated that she feels the community would be happy to be accommodating.

D. Anderson stated that there is a Pathfinders Swim time at the Pool and we don't close the pool to other families.

Kristen Spencer is happy to start back up with Pathfinder Programs, Sepac is a great resource. We have great success with our participants. We have all inclusive programs such as Mini Chefs, movie nights, swim, a winter track program at Ursuline Academy and bowling nights. She offered to work with and assist in any way she can.

Director Stanley will work with Shari and Kristen.

### **Permit Policy Discussion & Vote**

Chairwoman Moran stated that there were two permits that came in after the agenda was posted, however they are after the next meeting, so we can bring them to the October meeting.

C. Dello Iacono would like to add language to the current Permit Application.

A. O'Connell stated that she and Chairwoman Moran have been working to find various Policies, asked if C. Dello Iacono had these policies in writing.

C. Dello Iacono stated that the Director has the authority to give a one-day permit, until the Commissioners meet.

A. O'Connell asked about the language.

Chairwoman Moran stated that she and A. O'Connell can begin with this and the Signage Policy.

L. Farnham asked if this would be part of the Permit Application Form or just a Policy?

L. Farnham asked would people be asked to come to a meeting to request putting up signs.

A. O'Connell would proof of residency be part of the permit process.

C. Dello Iacono stated that permits have been given to largest groups first, such as the High School, then Youth Groups

Chairwoman Moran stated that there would not be a vote this evening .

### **Signs Policy Discussion & Vote**

A. O'Connell asked would this require a group to in a request to put up in individual signs or for a blanket ask for all signs on a particular field.

Chairwoman Moran stated that we would not be taking signs down

A. O'Connell stated that approval would be needed to put up any signs

L. Farnham had questions regarding who would be putting up and removal of the signs?

C. Dello Iacono stated that surrounding towns have timeline lines on when signs can be put up and taken down.

J. Briggs stated that we need language that specifies what types of signs would be allowed.

A. O'Connell asked about Youth Group signs that are permanent, such as at Memorial backstop, and concession stand at Rustcraft.

Director stated that those signs were approved years ago

J. Briggs stated that the Commission has the right to deny any signs at any time.

### **Sub-Committee Updates**

Community meeting for the use of the Police Station, such as a greenspace tomorrow via Zoom.

J. Briggs shared that the Open Space Committee is working on Mapping Open Space & Parks & Recreation Space through GIS.

C. Dello Iacono Council on Aging will be having a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony October 2, 2021, at the Senior Center at the Town Hall from 9:00 am until 12:00pm with live music and tours of the facilities.

L. Farnham shared that there will be a community bike ride on Saturday, October 18, 2021.

### **Master Plan – Follow up Discussion**

None

### **Pool Director's Report**

Karen O'Connell, the Pool Director, shared what is happening at the pool. She is trying to rebuild the staff such as instructors and lifeguard. Swimming lessons, yoga, Lifeguard Classes, Water Aerobics, Senior Swim from 1:00 pm to 2:00pm, discussions of special event days. We will be having Tween Nights. The Haunted House will return this year. Working with the Director, to be restructuring the Clippers. Possibly having a Babysitting Course for 11 to 15 age group. Having Birthday Parties again.

Looking to having another Swim Clinic.

C. Dello Iacono asked about Covid restrictions for the Haunted House.

L. Farnham asked about how seeking lifeguarding was being done.

K. O'Connell stated that she was marketing everywhere possible, all pools are having difficulties finding staff.

L. Moran asked about people who took lifeguarding classes.

K. O'Connell stated she has; however, many are from far distances.

### **Assistant Director's Report**

D. Anderson stated that Dedham Day is in two weeks and has 30 Vendors and hopefully more.

Asked PTO's for volunteers and seeking volunteers.

The banner has gone up in the square, and the DPW electronic signs.

L. Farnham has asked about Commissioner's roles on Dedham Day.

D. Anderson stated to reach out to her, and she will find a position for each.

Upcoming programs such as Karate, and mini chefs and mini sports and Dance & Gymnastics

Santa Calls & nights of stories

Kayak storage units have eights slots being used.

TILL program using Sugrue for softball and the Cheerleaders using the Dolan Center to practice.

L. Farnham asked about having surveys of programs

D, Anderson answered that it has been done in the past, but we can try again.

J. Briggs stated he put a note on the kayak that it needs to be registered with the office, for liability reason, and extend to the end of October, LL Bean will be having their programs until the end of October.

### **Director's Report**

Have had meetings about moving the Parks & Recreation Department to the Capen School, not sure if it would be permanent or temporary. There are pros and cons, it is a better location, has a full-sized gym, having classroom space. There are challenges such as the dance studio area. Would be needed to be sooner rather than later.

Chairwoman Moran asked what the timeline would be. R. Stanley said it may be a quick move.

C. Dello Iacono stated he felt it was a no-brainer, however the IT was an issue at the Dolan Center so make sure that it is done before any move.

R. Stanley stated that communication is imperative, so that would need to be done prior to any move.

R. Stanley stated that girls Softball has asked about lighting Sugrue Field at the Dolan Center. He stated that it set up already for lights, and to start thinking about Capitol Items.

C. Dello Iacono stated lamping lights at the fields with LED lights

R. Stanley stated that Sullivan is being done and will work to get costs for other fields.

C. Dello Iacono asked about any reimbursements for better lightening.

### **Old Business**

none

### **New Business**

J. Briggs shared that Livable Dedham was working on having a grand opening for the equipment at Gonzalez, most likely on a weekday morning in early October.

C. Dello Iacono asked if the SB have received the donated gift, and when would vote to accept the gift.

J. Briggs stated that he does not believe they needed as the Select Board has already done so.

C. Dello Iacono wanted to make sure that it was done properly

C. Dello Iacono made a motion to adjourn with a second by L. Farnham.

A roll call vote was taken

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