

TOWN OF DEDHAM

Parks & Recreation Department

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

*Anthony Mucciaccio Pool
1 Recreation Road*



*Robert Stanley
Director*

*Debra Anderson
Assistant & Program Director*

*Tracey White
Administrative Assistant*

March 14, 2022

Present:

Lisa Moran—Chairwoman
Chuck Dello Iacono – Vice Chair
Alix O’Connell - Secretary
Jonathan Briggs - member
Lisa Farnham - Member
Robert Stanley – Director
Debra Anderson – Asst. Director

Absent:

Tracey White – Assistant to the Director

Public Comment

- Keith Hampe (Baseball) - draw our attention to the condition of the school fields at Oakdale, Greenlodge & Riverdale [handed out pictures to the Commission]
 - Lack of grass, uneven, unkempt
 - What is our plan going forward? They look worse than ever.
 - Commissioner Dello Iacono - printed out a copy of the MOU with Schools for him. Wants to put this on the next agenda to further outline whose responsibilities is whose
 - Gets bounced back and forth between Schools and Parks - did so last year.
 - Commissioner Dello - we have a policy set in place with youth groups for a safety inspection of the fields - with director and the league heads
 - Commissioner Briggs - per MOU our responsibility to maintain the fields, “recess ready” vs. “athletic” fields - cannot do things on the “recess ready” fields that we can on the “athletic fields”. No irrigation, fertilization etc.
 - Director Stanley - our hands are tied with what we can do at school fields. Principals don’t want us on the fields during school hours, so we try to do them

over April vacation. We had the opportunity to put together a long-term plan when we did the Parks Master Plan & this was a big issue & the School Department specifically asked us to not include it as part of their plan. They have their own plans for the fields. He will meet with his staff tomorrow to see what he can do. Started maintenance at our other fields and will try to hit the elementary schools.

- He will be appearing at the School Committee bringing up the same issue to them.

Minutes - we are done through the end of 2021 and will have the January & February & possibly March for this year next meeting

Permits

- 4 on the 4th (Dedham Four on the 4th)
 - Commissioner Dello Iacono recused himself - he volunteers for this event
 - John McGurgen - usage is going to be the same as the past years. They will need to set up Friday and the race is on Monday the 4th. The setup is putting up the tent, fencing etc. (as requested by Select Board). Changed the finish last year per Police request and this will be the same this year.
 - Chairwoman Moran - is baseball going during this time?
 - Last year they worked with baseball for their playoff games, and it worked fine.
 - Motion to Accept Permit (Commissioner Farnham) w/Amendment to include the Friday setup. Second by Commissioner. Briggs. Passed unanimously.
- Use of the Dolan Center for Wrestling (Friends of Dedham Wrestling)
 - Steve Heislip - Wednesday nights April to June. Mostly for highschoolers. The coaches want the wrestlers to do off-season wrestling. Clubs that do this are far away and very expensive. This gives them an option close to home to keep them going.
 - Advertise on social media to get other people as well. Open to the public. USA Wrestling offers insurance, CORI etc. \$12 fee for this.
 - Commissioner O'Connell - why is this not through the Youth Wrestling Program? Not a youth program.
 - Commissioner Farnham - is the number of wrestlers within the capacity of the gym? Yes.
 - Chairwoman Moran - only 2 coaches. At what point will more be needed? Unsure but they have alumni wrestlers available if needed. No parents in building.
 - Director - will have someone there "in charge" to keep it open and lock-up at the end of the night.
 - Motion to Accept Permit (Dello Iacono) Second (O'Connell) - passed unanimously.

Pollinator Gardens

- 2 emails from Stephanie Radner re: placement of these gardens around town. Removed Hartnett Square (already planted). Can she put something in Dedham Square? Should be fine.

- Director - Neighbors put a tree up. They usually present things to him and Joe Flanagan.
- Commissioner O'Connell - can you invite Stephanie to this meeting so she can tell the neighbors her plan? Yes.
- Fairbanks at Rustcraft - would be a great idea.
- Commissioner Briggs - in terms of education this is a great location. Lots of foot traffic.
- Other option - Mill Pond would be great. Fixing the walkway will not affect this project.

Fairbanks Garden Club wants to put up signs for its annual plant sale

- Town Common, Oakdale Common, Rustcraft Park
- Motion to Approve (Dello Iacono) Second (Farnham) - unanimous approval.

Dog Park Committee (Dello Iacono)

- Concern re: infants and young children in strollers being brought into the dog park. There is a rule that children under the age of 8 aren't allowed in the fenced area. Want amendment - include strollers, infants and all minors under the age of 16 allowed without accompanying adults. Want an additional sign re: this rule on the gate. Print out smaller signs and put them in key locations with specific key rules.
- Commissioner O'Connell - can there be any further repercussions for people who keep violating this law? Can they lose their access?
- Commissioner Dello Iacono - we are looking to re-establish the key fob system etc. Will take a little time. Once this is put into place then we can take it away per the rules for violations.
- Commissioner Farnham - can we send an email blast to everyone who has/had the fobs re: these rules? Yes.
- Commissioner Briggs - funds to make these signs are coming out of our Budget.
- Chairwoman Moran - status of posting for new members. It will be completed in early April.
- Motion to Approve Changes to Wording as Presented (Farnham) Second (Briggs) - unanimous

MOU Capen School (Chairwoman Moran)

- She has reached out to the Manager and Schools Superintendent re: meeting. Nothing has been done on this.
- Director Stanley - facilities is putting in through their Capital for most of the costs. There are some items in our budget that we are not using due to Covid. Transportation (buses and van rentals) - once June 30th comes the funding will be returned. He only said that once it is returned then they can take it out and use it for the HVAC for Capen. Would have to be approved by FinCom and used before June 30th.
- Commissioner Dello Iacono - the MOU appears to say that we have some control over what happens at that property which we do not. An MOU committee needs to be put together and it needs to have members of each board (Selectboard, School, Parks) otherwise this is never going to be completed. -
- Chairwoman Moran will reach out to the boards to see about setting this up. Commissioner Farnham & Briggs volunteered.
- Commissioner Dello Iacono - we need to also discuss the Dolan Center MOU to make sure it works with this one. Also, some small changes have been made to the signed MOU we need to discuss. Chairwoman Moran will do so.

Minor Updates to Field Use Permits (O'Connell)

- 3 minor changes requested by Department - highlighted on document - change Dedham high school games to all DPS games; add modifier to the request that it be the Commission Chair / Department Director; increase time in advance to submit the permit request
- Commissioner Dello Iacono - disagrees with the 2nd changes. All Commissioners can request any public document at any time. This removes his right. Any member of the public can request any public document mentioned at any meeting
- Commissioner Briggs & Chairwoman Moran - this just streamlines the process. Our requests to sports teams not our office itself.
- Commissioner Dello Iacono – after a long disagreement, he realized he mis-understood the wording.
- Director – Bob asked the question of what insurance he should be asking for – clarifying if we want proof of liability insurance for everyone who uses our fields? It will not be the case in every circumstance. Town accepts the liability in certain cases - i.e., pickup games etc.
- Commissioner O'Connell questioned if a pickup game / tourney is just once or if it is a yearly thing than maybe it needs its own insurance.
- Director - Town accepts the liability for these type of groups – it's about 20% - and he is in the middle of the insurance audit currently and will ask regarding the parameters of this leeway.
- Motion to Approve Amendments (Iacono) Second (Farnham)
- Next step - O'Connell create final pdf and send to Tracey to post and send to all organizations.

Asst. Director

- Kayaks - ready to send something out to everyone. Question re: dates? April 1st?
 - All were full last year. 2 are still being held in our garage - no idea whose they are??
 - April 1 - Oct. 15th update. Send to Debbie.

Pool Update

- Very busy at pool. Clippers just ended after a great season. Swim clinics, spring lessons, dive lessons & master swim (totally full), water aerobics (also full), lifeguard courses offered every month, Saturday tween nights, booking into May for birthday parties. Last week of March starting private swim lessons. Extending open & lap swim hours and new schedule is on registration page. Registration for summer classes & Clippers is now open. Triathlon May 22nd (tentative date).

Asst. Director cont.

- Partnership with Police - 93 to Launch during February break. Want to do something over April vacation that is similar. Potentially sports game etc.
- Spring programs going on - mini-gymnastics going through beginning May. Also considering adding karate classes and working on the adult classes. Women's self-defense class potentially. Brought back track program (Friday nights) at Gonzalez max out at 50. This will happen all April and May and continue a summer program. Dance programs were pushed back and will start in April. Also, bar, stretch & condition class. Tentative reserved date for recital at the middle school.
- Summer - finalizing programs. Meeting with other camp directors (DCH, Nobles, DCD etc.) and talking to health department etc.
- Working with public relations person - welcome fliers etc.
- Friends of Dedham Parks - starting to plan Dedham Day already.
- Egg drop is all set.
- Thomas' Trek for SIDS - reached out to try to get it going this year. A local Dedham resident lost her child to SIDS and wants to do a benefit walk in his memory. Already approved by us, police etc. October?
- Flag Day (Director) - will be on Flag Day itself, fireworks are on for this year at 9:15pm, parade at 6pm; getting calls from groups that want to be involved; Friends of Flag Day (JuJu) is still going strong putting this together
- Questions:
 - Chairwoman Moran - what is the procedure once a class is booked? An email goes out a week before the class starts. There is also an initial confirmation receipt that goes out.

Director's Report

- Finance - this is FinCom week - typically we are last in the meeting, he doesn't expect any issues, he is meeting with liaisons from FinCom to go over the details and will let him know if there are any issues. Recommended all of our Capital budget requests- shade structures, basketball setups for Churchill, Gonzalez benches, bleachers, fencing for the dog park
 - Test of shade structures to see how they work and if they are really effective then we will ask for more
- Fields - entering into the busiest time of year, getting them ready, started turning over fields trying to get them ready, takes 3 to 4 weeks to hit all the fields, next month will start turning on irrigation and treatments, water at Rustcraft (April 1st)
- State legislatures will approve his control to the Selectboard but nothing will change day to day, hoping for more support from the town side;
- Commissioner O'Connell - bench issues re: moving them around, 4 new benches coming in and should be no issues re: benches being moved around
- Commissioner Dello Iacono - guys are doing a great job at the fields
- Memorial - snow removal ruins the fences every year so he talked to DPW and they will repair / replace the fence

Old Business / Committee Business

- O'Connell - Wayfaring Committee offshoot from Dedham Police Station group and I am a member; the proposal for use of the land was not approved by the Selectboard who is now creating their own proposal; unsure what will be presented at town meeting. Code of Conduct will be brought back up next meeting
- Farnham - April 2nd Dedham Crawl for Flag Day
- Commissioner Dello Iacono - dog park - adding attractions (obstacles) from DPW (tubes, tires); we are being considered by Blue Hills to build a decking surface over a muddy section; program mid-summer like Dedham Day focused on dogs, community clean-up at dog park on May 14th (remove and replace mulch, fence repair, poison ivy, brush clean-up, tree pruning etc.)
 - O'Connell - question re: liability for dog day and inviting the public to interact with invited dogs; maybe reach out to our insurer
 - Briggs - question re: environmental impact of burying tires etc.
- Chairwoman Moran - last full meeting as Chair; will only be starting the meeting after the election, thankful to serve as first female chair in 15 something years, appreciate all the help. It was a pleasure to serve with all of you.

Next meeting – Monday, April 11, 2022

Motion to Adjourn (Dello Iacono) Second (Farnham)