**TOWN OF DEDHAM**

**Park & Recreation Department**

****

Robert Stanley

Park & Recreation Director

Debra Anderson

Asst. Dir. / Program Director

Tracey White

Administrative Assistant

Dedham Recreation Center

269 Common Street

Rec 781-751-9250

Pool 781-461-5991

Fax 781-461-5985

A regular Meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commissioners was held on Monday, July 10, 2017 at 7:00 pm, in the Francis O’Brien Meeting Room, 26 Bryant Street, Dedham, Massachusetts.

**Present:** James Maher **Absent:** Salvatore Ledda

John Maida Robert Stanley- Director

Charles Dello Iacono

Jonathon Briggs

Debra Anderson – Assistant Director

Tracey White – Administrative Assistant

**Community Input**

Sarah Santos asked about why there was no Foam Day listed on the Summer Calendar, Jim explained that the Fire Department cannot do the event do to different type of foam that they now use, and that when they tried last year with a Foam Machine it did not dispense fast enough or thick enough, and due to the Pool Field being redone this year it wasn’t even entertained. S. Santos asked if there would be another event to replace Foam Day. J. Maher explained that it would be up to the Director and Asst. Director to bring something before the Board. J. Maher told her if she had ideas to share them with R. Stanley or D. Anderson.

S. Santos asked if there were any updated plans for Gonzalez Field, as there was one plan in the Dedham Times in the winter and then another posted on Facebook recently. J. Maida explained that there were a few changes from the original plans (crosswalk on East St., ramp & stairs). S. Santos asked how to access the field with a stroller, and J. Maida explained from the parking lot or the ramp. Dan Hart (former Parks & Recreation Commissioner) was in the audience and explained how to get to the field, and that various Boards including the Board of Selectman asked not to have a crosswalk on East Street. It was explained that you would be able to access Dedham Square via a walkway. It was also explained that J. Maida & D. Hart had asked the Board of Selectman and there was hesitation to make certain changes and that S. Santos should share here concerns with the Board of Selectman

Jessica Porter asked if the plans could be put on the website, J. Maher said that it would be done. J. Porter also asked if the Commissioners could share with Board of Selectman that there has been concerns about the crosswalks, J. Maida stated that if she wanted to go to the Board of Selectman, that one of the Commissioners would go with her to share concerns. J. Porter also shared that since the State owns part of the intersection, every time a complaint is filed it builds a case to fix the issues.

J. Porter thanked the Commissioners for all the work they have done for the water trail, and asked if there would be public comment during the Master Plan discussion, J. Maher answered that not at this meeting. J. Porter asked when that would be the case, and what is the process. J. Maher explained that the Parks & Recreation Board would make corrections and send back to the Master Plan Committee. J. Porter then asked J. Maher as the Chairman of the Master Plan Committee when would public comment be allowed. Maher answered that he has not seen the Agenda from Horsley Whitten yet for next meeting. Conclusions and recommendations have not been discussed yet.

**Minutes**

In the next few weeks, we willed be trained on how to post on our own. Will have prior minutes at August meeting.

**Permits**

No permits have been sent to the Asst. Director

**Director Report**

* Gonzalez is going well, and hinted done early, leaning towards factory lines except for the circles
* Davis Field construction started today, and Baseball has been notified and hopefully take 3 weeks
* Capone Field
* Getting all documents ready and hopefully construction to begin in late August
* Pool Field
* Is behind a couple of weeks, hopefully sod will go down in the next two weeks
* Loewen Field the irrigation is working, however the tank only holds 5 days’ worth of water, so no rain means no irrigation, working with company that installed to see what alternate sources of water

C. Dello Iacono asked that for the McGillicuddy Softball Tournament that more trash barrels be put by the softball field

J. Briggs asked about a hornet’s nest at Memorial Park, D. Anderson said that the Parks Dept. will remove

J. Maida made motion to accept the Director Report, second by C. Dello Iacono, all voted in the affirmative

**Assistant Director Report**

* Swim & Gym has 130 kids in the Program, the parents are all in favor of the new times, and the only complaint is not being able to use the Pool Field
* All Day Program is doing well, 40 kids are participating
* Playgrounds started last Wednesday there are about 15 children at Riverdale, 25-30 kids at Condon and Paul Park has 35 plus kids.
* Today both Tennis and Pathfinders programs started, tennis will be for 6 weeks and Pathfinders for 5 weeks,
* Dive Program will have 3 dates in the summer
* Will attend weekly meetings with the Drug Coalition, to see how they can get information out to the community and being more active
* This week will be attending a wrap up meeting with the Flag Day Committee
* The Bike Rodeo will be July 26th, with the Police Department at the Endicott Estate
* Have begun attending the Crisis Intervention Meetings, with the Police Dept., Superintendent and Health Dept.
* J. Briggs asked about Field Trips for the Playgrounds to the Dolan Center, D. Anderson explained that the Playgrounds do go to the Dolan Center and use the Trails

S. Santos asked through the Chairman, that she was unaware that the Playground kids went to the Dolan Center and that the Calendar was very unclear were the kids go, and there is no information about the cost of the Pool, more information should be on Calendar it is unclear as to where children go and when.

J. Maher stated it would be good to have that information on the Calendar, and was unaware that our participants paid for use of the pool.

S. Santos stated that it is billed as Free Playgrounds and then there are costs associated with many events, and asked if a child doesn’t have money are they allowed to swim. D. Anderson stated that the first time they are allowed to swim without paying

C. Dello Iacono shared that he was unaware that there was a cost for participants to use the pool

C. Dello Iacono asked if Flag Football registration has started yet, D. Anderson stated yes, and was unsure what the numbers were, but she would check. D. Anderson said she puts up the registration in February when she does the Summer Programs. C. Dello Iacono stated that when Gonzalez comes online, our programs should be scheduled first before outside groups can use. J. Maida suggested informing R. Stanley as well, so that he plans accordingly.

J. Maher asked about coaches for Flag Football, can there be a policy that Coaches can have fee waived, D. Anderson said that is already the case.

J. Maher asked about Field Hockey, D. Anderson stated that she is working with E. MacDonald, he asked about Track Program and D. Anderson stated that due to lack of coaches there is not going to be a Track Program.

J. Maida stated that the Dedham Athletic Director had showed interest in working with Parks & Recreation and D. Anderson should reach out to him to see what could be worked out. D. Anderson stated that she would email him.

Motion made by J. Briggs, second by C. Dello Iacono to accept Assistant Director Report, all voted in the affirmative to accept.

**Flag Day Committee Discussion**

C. Dello Iacono would like to do something to thank Anthony “JuJu” Mucciaccio for pulling off a flawless parade and Fireworks display. Would like a committee to put together to study the real cost of doing fireworks in the future. J. Maher would also like to get information from John Sisson (Town of Dedham, Economic Development Director) to see what the financial impact was to the town, as far as businesses go. J. Maida also stated that it was terrific for the community, and asked if we could have Anthony “JuJu” Mucciaccio in to thank him. J. Maher asked if the committee could report back at the August meeting. D. Anderson asked if she could be on that committee.

**Master Plan First Draft Review & Discussion**

J. Maher told Assistant Director that her input was needed, D. Anderson stated she had not seen the report, a draft was given to her

Discussion on how to proceed with the draft review, started at page 40 (Programs)

Discussion of the various Programs the Parks & Recreation Department offers for Report

J. Briggs asked about Bridge Club, is it a program? D. Anderson stated it was. He asked where one-day events would be in the report, such as Trail Day. It was answered that it would be listed as events.

Review & Discussion on the Master Plan Draft, began at page one, and went page by page to correct errors and omissions to submit back to the Parks & Recreation & Open Space Committee.

**Old & New Business**

None

J. Briggs made a motion to close the meeting, second by J. Maida, all voted in the affirmative.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 14, 2017 at 7pm. This is to certify that the above is a true and accurate record of the Minutes of Parks & Recreation Commissioners Meeting held on July 10, 2017, which minutes were approved on August 14, 2017.

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Jonathon Briggs – Secretary