

**Park and Recreation Commission Meeting
February 12th, 2024 @ 7:00pm**

Present: Christopher Gerstel (Chair), Michelle Geddes (Vice-Chair), Cynthia Chaston (Member), Dina Hannigan (Member), James Rosenbaum (Member), Stacey Mulroy (Director), Hannah Corrigan (Assistant Director), Dominic Stanganelli (Administrative Assistant)

Call to Order

Mr. Gerstel called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, February 12th, 2024.

1. **Open Forum Public Comment**

None.

2. **Meeting Guests**

None.

3. **Chair's Update**

Chris has no additional updates.

4. **Director's Report**

Winter programs are underway. Puzzle League and Kids Night Out have been successful and are looking to maintain high levels of interest going forward. Spring programs are now available for registration and interest has been high.

Spring field permitting is underway by Hannah who is currently working on getting updated insurance information from repeat user groups. Parks and Forestry are in the process of repairing fences on our fields. Wu has been inundated with trash cleanup at High Rock and he is taking a step back to see if the schools will be more proactive in waste management. Stacey has been in contact with school administration, whom is on the same page.

The previous week's budget meeting with Financial Committee went well, with no comments or concerns. We will be working with CHA of Connecticut and their subcontractor, American Ramp Company, to move forward with the Active Recreation Feasibility Study. The Department is reviewing the bid documents from Weston & Sampson regarding Claxton Field, and the final project will be presented at the Annual Town Meeting in May 2024. We have reached out to Fuss & O'Neil regarding their high quote for work at DeFazio and are waiting to hear back. At McLeod Field, batting cage nets and dugouts are expected to be installed in March 2024, with installation of electrical outlets taking place shortly after. The Community Preservation Committee has shown support for additional tennis courts at Needham High School, and will have a public meeting on March 12th, 2020.

To date, the Department has received 21 applications for the Administrative Analyst position, including 2 internal candidates. The first round of interviews is set to begin after February 16th, 2024.

5. **Discussion Items**

James presented a proposal for Senior Family and non-resident pickleball court badges. He suggested volunteers for enforcement of court badges. Dina commented that high school volunteers may be put in an uncomfortable position. Chris asked how many badges have been sold to date and Stacey replied that, as of February 12th, 2 have been purchased. The Commission concluded that the courts are already highly congested and that our primary commitment is to Needham residents. Stacey noted that we will continue to explore bringing on a court monitor.

Based on testing showing high concentrations of contaminants, the Department recommended that The Rosemary Lake boat dock project not go forward. The Commission voted on returning grant funds back to the Town, the result of which can be found below under Action Items & Approvals.

6. Action Items & Approvals

6A. *Special Event Approvals*

Motion to Release Dock Funds Back to Town

Motion: Cynthia Chaston

Second: Dina Hannigan

Vote: 5-0

SWES Fun Run

Motion: Cynthia Chaston

Second: Michelle Geddes

Vote: 5-0

MetroWest Backyard Ultra Race

Motion: Michelle Geddes

Second: Dina Hannigan

Vote: 5-0, contingent on clarification of time.

Needham High Class of '24 Senior Picnic

Motion: Dina Hannigan

Second: Chris Gerstel

Vote: 5-0

SWES Kickball

Motion: Chris Gerstel

Second: Michelle Geddes

Vote: 5-0

Opposition to Noah's Ark Pre-School Sign at Claxton Field

Motion: Chris Gerstel

Second: Michelle Geddes

Vote: 5-0

6B. Policy Approvals

None.

6C. Fee Approvals

None.

6D. Meeting Minutes of January 22nd, 2024.

Minutes from this meeting will be reviewed at February 26th, 2024 meeting.

7. Issues Not Reasonably Anticipated by Chair within 48 Hours

James brought attention to Facebook comments concerning court and field closures through Winter. The Department makes court and field closure dates available through social media, but will look into other avenues to disseminate relevant information.

8. Topics for Future Meetings

None at present.

9. Next Meetings

- Monday, February 26th, 2024
- Monday, March 11th, 2024
- Monday, March 25th, 2024
- Monday, April 8th, 2024

10. Adjournment of Business Meeting

Motion: Cynthia Chaston

Second: Chris Gerstel

Vote: 4-0 (Abstention from Dina due to early departure)

Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm, February 12th, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dominic Stanganelli

Administrative Assistant