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TOWN OF MEDWAY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

PARKS COMMISSION

APPROVED 7/29/2020

Town of Medway
Board of Park Commissioners Meeting
June 24, 2020
Remote Meeting Via Zoom

In attendance:

Park Commissioners: Debi Rossi, Sean Murphy and John Farrell
Others: Julie Harrington, Director of Parks and Recreation, Peter Pelletier, Public Works Deputy Director, Chris Guilmartin, Treasurer of Medway Youth Softball and Ian McRury, General Manager of Old School Football Club

Vice Chairman Rossi called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

The Board welcomed their newest member Mr. John Farrell.

Approval of Minutes:

The Board and Ms. Harrington discussed amendments to the minutes.

Upon a motion by Ms. Rossi and seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Board voted unanimously to approve the May 27th minutes as amended. The motion carried 2-0-1.

Commission Reorganization:

Upon a motion by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mr. Farrell, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Debi Rossi as the Chairman. The motion carried.

Upon a motion by Ms. Rossi and seconded by Mr. Farrell, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Sean Murphy as the Vice Chairman. The motion carried.

Summer Field Request/Summary:

June:

Ms. Harrington shared the June calendar with the Board and stated there were no issues.

July:

Ms. Harrington shared the July calendar and stated the boys' soccer league is unknown. Mr. Murphy explained it is a high school league that has been run forever, usually a senior parent

coordinates the schedule and he or she is usually there as a chaperone around the bench. An adult has to be at every game with the players. The games are part of Phase 3 and cannot start before July 6th. Ms. Harrington was concerned about liability and insurance. She noted the League filled out all the paperwork. Ms. Harrington and Beth Hallal, Health Director, had a Zoom meeting with the League and they agreed to follow protocols for social distancing and safe practices. Ms. Rossi asked if it was possible Lyle Core could take full responsibility for the League. It was noted a parent needs to be present at game and the league has to pay to use the fields. Mr. Farrell spoke about a league his son plays in and explained equipment bags and players have to social distance and questioned how will that happen on the soccer field. Mr. Murphy suggested giving the waivers to Lyle Core to make sure all players and parents have reviewed and signed the waivers. Ms. Harrington will also run this by the Town Administrator. She went on to say Goldstar Lacrosse signed the waiver with the added COVID clause as a group. Ms. Rossi stated the Board shouldn't be chasing participants for signatures and each user group needs to take responsibility for their players. There was a discussion about players contacting COVID on their own and the Town not being liable. Mr. Murphy stated users should sign waivers to protect the Town and Board and not concern themselves with complaints of players not social distancing. Ms. Harrington stated July 15th and 22nd the Coyotes will likely lose Hamlin Field and they were fine with it. All other field requests in July have been worked out. The Senior Classic will take place. Goldstar Lacrosse will go through the summer because of being displaced in June.

August:

Ms. Harrington shared the August calendar with the Board. The Goldstar Lacrosse Tournament is scheduled for 8/7-8/9. She will reach out to the concession stand organizers to see if the stand will be up and running. Ms. Harrington shared the following conflicts.

- The High School and Old School are holding camp on the 3rd & 5th.
- Goldstar Lacrosse requested fields on the 11 and 12th and Old School requested 10th-13th. There is nothing scheduled for Friday the 14th.

The Board and Ms. Harrington commented on ways to work around the conflicts

Upon a motion by Ms. Harrington and seconded by Mr. Farrell, the Board voted unanimously to accept the schedules for June, July and August as laid out currently. The motion carried.

Summer Programming Update:

Ms. Harrington cancelled a lot of vendor programs for the summer due to the current rules and regulations. She commented that some vendor programs would have to increase fees by over \$100 due to staffing to be compliant with state guidelines. There will be soccer camp in July and some STEM activities. Numbers have to be based on indoor space. Choate Summer has to have a quorum of ten. There can be no interaction with any other groups, counselors stay with their groups, groups have to be at least 20 feet apart from other groups, no contact drop off and no sharing of equipment. Temperature and medical checks must be conducted before camp. Ms. Rossi commented getting outside and getting exercise is good, but all of these rules are challenging for the kids. BEST Soccer has put in their paperwork for a camp of no more than 20 kids to the Health Director, but Ms. Harrington was not sure of approval. Everything will be at Choate Park using Camp Sunshine's 20'x40' tent with a divider down the middle. At this time, Camp Sunshine will not run in person sessions, but may towards the end of the summer.

Ms. Harrington is in the process of hiring staff for summer camp in August. One week is full and two others are almost full. The parent packets are being finished and shirts and masks will be ordered from Custom Apparel. Staff training is scheduled for the last week in July and there will be a virtual open house for questions and a “day in the life.”

Enough money was raised to cover the entire Summer Concert series with the help of the awesome downtown businesses. The concerts will be drive in and are being moved to Oakland to socially distance on the field or listeners may remain in their car. Ms. Harrington needs help with the set up to make sure cars are parked one space apart and folks are social distancing on the field. Ms. Rossi suggested cones be used to delineate every other spot. Mr. Pelletier will get the cones to Ms. Harrington. There was a discussion about having a food truck at the concerts. Ms. Harrington will check with the Health Director. Ms. Harrington talked about offering paddleboat nights this summer, but they are pricey, so she contacted Dennis Crowley of the Lions Club to see if they would help defray the cost for that. Paddle nights will be offered throughout the summer. July 9th is currently sold out and there will be two in August.

Field Permit Spot Checking:

Assumption College Football Team was using the field without a permit, having an organized practice with at least twenty participants. They will not be sent a bill. Spot-checking will be occurring and participants will have to get in the habit of showing their permit.

Fall Field Requests:

Ms. Harrington emailed users last week, but there is a lot of unknown. Youth Tackle Football is not starting until at least August. Eastern MA Youth Flag Football probably will not happen until at least the beginning of August and they will most likely go with the town with the least restrictions. Medway Flag Football owes a balance and Mr. Murphy will get in touch with the contact to discuss. Ms. Harrington is hoping to run travel field hockey teams. A 7/8 age group team was picked up and they are in need of a coach. Ms. Rossi commented middle school teams could recruit some of those younger members. It is possible contact sports could be moved to the spring and noncontact to the fall. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE) should announce fall plans any day now. It was noted MIAA is pushing that flip-flop around.

Director's Update:

Ms. Harrington stated Massachusetts Premier Soccer (GPS) went bankrupt and has not paid the \$14,000.00 from the March tournament. Town counsel is drafting a letter to try and reclaim that. No one from the company reached out. Ms. Harrington learned the news from NEFC (New England Futbol Club) who wants to take over those tournaments. The Board discussed going forward requiring 80 percent of the user fee in advance. Mr. Murphy suggested requiring all payment in advance and either refunding or putting the money towards a future tournament if changes occur.

Needham soccer reached out about Memorial Day 2021.

The Board agreed the Community Ed Strength/Conditioning class cost would be \$6 per person, per week.

Step-By-Step Studio of Dance would like to have their dance recital at Oakland in August.

Upon a motion by Ms. Rossi and seconded by Mr. Farrell, the Board voted unanimously to charge Step By Step Studio of Dance \$35 per hour to use Oakland. The motion carried.

There was a brief discussion about allowing the Scorpions to use Idylbrook for the same fee as last year.

Upon a motion by Ms. Rossi and seconded by Mr. Farrell, the Board voted unanimously to give the Scorpions Idylbrook for the summer at last year's cost. The motion carried.

Ms. Pelletier commented Public Works is struggling with irrigation on a few of the fields. They are trying to use a more cost effective fertilizer. Ms. Rossi asked about the Middle School batting cage and softball fields flooding. There were rain gardens installed in the back to help with runoff and drainage was changed running between the Middle School baseball fields and lower memorial to help. The third baseline drainage is still problematic. Mr. Pelletier commented the Town is pumping over 950,000 gallons a day, which is drastically higher than normal. It will become an issue if that high volume of usage continues. Public Works is not watering fields with water system. Rain is needed in the near future.

All turf fields have been disinfected. GMAX testing should happen middle of next week.

The Splash Pad is part of Phase 4 and will be tabled to the next meeting.

Mr. Murphy asked Ms. Harington to write a letter to Mike Tudino thanking him for his service for the last three years.

Upon a motion by Ms. Rossi and seconded by Mr. Farrell, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the remote meeting via Zoom at 8:57 p.m. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Pacella, Night Board Secretary