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TOWN OF MEDWAY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

PARKS COMMISSION

APPROVED 2/9/2022

Town of Medway
Board of Park Commissioners Meeting
December 1, 2021 – 6:30 PM
Medway Senior Center

Park Commissioners: Debi Rossi, Lyle Core, Sean Murphy, John Farrell, and Rick D'Innocenzo

Absent: None

Others: Julie Harrington, Director of Parks and Recreation; Sean Harrington, Deputy Director of Public Works; Karen Niemczyk, Director Medway Community Education; Pete Soule, Medway Youth Lacrosse; and Dan Shea, Medway Youth Soccer

Chairman Rossi called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

Public Comment

No public comments outside of agenda items.

Call to Order: At 6:30 PM, Ms. Debi Rossi called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item #1 - Approval of Minutes: October 27, 2021

VOTE: Ms. Rossi offered a motion to approve the 10/27/21 minutes as amended. Mr. Farrell seconded this motion, which passed unanimously. VOTE: 5-0.

Agenda Item #2 – Community Education Summer 2022 Fields

Ms. Niemczyk was present to address this topic. She did not anticipate that the program's needs would be different this summer compared to previous summers. The only difference is that the summer adventure program will be 7 weeks, not 8.

Ms. Niemczyk asked if the board had any preference regarding which tennis courts the program

would use. The program would use them from 9am-12pm for 2 weeks. Ms. Rossi suggested the middle school tennis courts would be best; Ms. Harrington agreed with this. Ms. Harrington and Ms. Niemczyk addressed the potential issue of snow days and planned to finalize dates once Ms. Niemczyk has all the necessary paperwork.

Ms. Harrington, Ms. Rossi, and Ms. Niemczyk revisited the previous financing of Summer Adventures, which was a maximum of \$7,500 per child per summer. For all other summer classes, the cost is \$6 per child per week.

VOTE: Ms. Rossi motioned to approve the aforementioned pricing. Mr. Farrell seconded this motion, which passed unanimously. VOTE: 4-0.

Agenda Item #3 – Baseball Fence Update

Ms. Rossi updated the commission that there is \$25,000 budgeted for the baseball fence. She also shared that the fence cannot be permanent. Ms. Harrington shared that the commission should write up a specification of what they want, then the price drives how they would procure it. For any purchase over \$10,000, he suggested getting three different quotes. Ms. Harrington offered to relay these quotes to Allison Potter for review. The commission determined the Sportaflex baseball fence was likely the best system, which is galvanized and spring-loaded with 4.5x9.5 specks; Mr. Core and Mr. Farrell planned to get a formal quote from them, as well as two others. Ms. Rossi reminded the committee that the town has already approved this purchase and that the commission is just facilitating the process.

Mr. Farrell shared that the recommended storage is an 8x10 trailer; he also shared that the fence could be stored at the DPW during the offseason.

VOTE: Mr. Murphy motioned to approve the purchase of a baseball fence under \$25,000, which will be paid for by the town. Ms. Rossi seconded this motion, which passed unanimously. VOTE: 4-0.

Agenda Item #4 – Spring Tournaments

Mr. Soule was present to address a spring tune-up pre-season lacrosse tournament. This event brings in teams from all over Massachusetts. It has sold out every year for almost a decade. He shared the intention is not to make money but to offset lacrosse fees. He shared that his first choice would be all 3 fields at the high school on March 26-27, 2022. He would be off the field by 5pm and likely earlier on the 27th. Ms. Harrington shared that Medway High School sports begin on March 21. In order to avoid any potential conflicts, Ms. Harrington and Ms. Rossi suggested giving the NEFC team access to these fields any time from 5:30pm on.

VOTE: Ms. Rossi offered a motion to approve giving all 3 fields to the NEFC tournament for 3/18/22-3/20/22. Mr. Core seconded this motion, which passed unanimously. VOTE: 4-0.

Mr. Core raised concerns about losing money to the tournament; Mr. Soule shared his willingness to pay the turf fee, which is \$35 per hour. Ms. Rossi voiced that the tournament is important for the town and wanted to ensure its return.

Mr. D'Innocenzo joined the meeting at 7:08PM.

The commission discussed concerns about potential conflicts with the Ryan Harvey event, which they do not have full information on yet.

VOTE: Ms. Rossi offered a motion to approve Mr. Soule using the tournament on all 3 fields from 3/26-3/27 ending at 5pm at the \$35/hour rate. Mr. Farrell seconded this motion, which passed. Rossi: aye, Core: aye, Farrell: aye, D’Innocenzo: aye, Murphy: nay. VOTE: 4-1.

Agenda Item #5 – Synthetic Ice Rink

Ms. Harrington shared that she has researched getting a synthetic ice rink, which could be put on the Oakland basketball courts during the winter. She discussed potentially having family skate nights. She shared that she received a quote for \$45,000. Based on the rent-to-own pricing, it would be \$25,000 a month. The commission felt this was a great idea, but likely too expensive to pursue.

On a separate note, Ms. Rossi shared that she is in the process of receiving quotes for a scoreboard, particularly one with a video screen. This would go on the Hanlon field, as well as Lamson. This would allow for significant fundraising opportunities.

Agenda Item #6 – Winter class/event requests for parks

Ms. Harrington shared that Step By Step wants to do a small 45 minute dance at Choate. She also shared that Tinker Garden wants to do a lantern walk at Choate, as well as classes in the winter on Mondays and Saturdays. She shared that the commission does not typically charge these groups for access. The commission discussed withholding formal access to this space from Tinker Garden until outstanding charges are received.

Agenda Item #7 – Fields update

Ms. Harrington shared that the fields are primarily closed, with the exception of the Scorpions, who use the fields 2 days a week, including a tournament during the weekend of 12/4/21. The commission discussed that the Scorpions have outstanding charges, which Ms. Harrington stated she would follow up on.

Agenda Item #8 – Chair Update

Ms. Rossi shared an update from the most recent Master Plan Committee meeting. She shared that the primary shared concern is the plaza area; however, the plaza is not owned by the town. She also shared that many people are interested in having a community center, but the VFW already functions for this purpose. In response, Mr. D’Innocenzo raised the topic of open space. Ms. Rossi added that the open spaces Medway owns are quite minimal compared to surrounding towns. She clarified that many people mistake private property for town-owned open space. Furthermore, she added that there will be another Master Plan set of focus groups. Mr. D’Innocenzo and Mr. Murphy offered to do this. Mr. Shea also offered to be part of a focus group; Ms. Rossi shared she would put him in touch with the appropriate contacts. Lastly, she shared that the Master Plan will be meeting with the Select Board in the near future to discuss logistics, including Route 109. Mr. Murphy also raised concerns about the town not being conducive to businesses and planned to address this issue in the focus group.

Agenda Item #9 - Director Update

Ms. Harrington shared that she sent the winter brochure to the commission members. She stated that registration begins on Monday and includes activities such as writing letters to Santa. She asked who would like to judge the light fight on 12/9/21. Ms. Rossi and Mr. Murphy volunteered to do so. She shared that the categories are holiday spirit, use of lights, and overall design.

Motion to Adjourn: At 8:30PM, Ms. Rossi motioned to adjourn. Mr. Farrell seconded this motion, which passed unanimously. VOTE: 5-0.

Meeting Adjourned by Ms. Rossi: 8:30pm

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 26, 2022

Respectfully submitted by,
Amelia McLaughlin, Recording Secretary