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TOWN OF MEDWAY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

PARKS COMMISSION

APPROVED 1/25/2023

Town of Medway
Board of Park Commissioners Meeting
September 28, 2022 – 6:30 PM
Sanford Hall – Medway Town Hall

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

Absent: None

Others: Julie Harrington, Erin Robinson, Glenn Trindade, Dan Shea, Susan Dietrich, Rich Coakley, Stuthi Balaji, and Angelica Crosby

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

Public Comments: There were none at this time.

1. Approval of Minutes: August 24, 2022

Ms. Rossi wished to change the approval of the minutes to 3-0-2, as 2 individuals abstained. In terms of Native Indigenous People Day, Ms. Rossi wished to change the language to “use of the Pavilion at Choate.”

Ms. Rossi also wished to change the date of the Pumpkin Walk to October 28, 2022.

Mr. Core wished to change the language from “practices and games” to just “practices,” as the facility in question is not used for games.

Mr. Core suggested changing “in the area of Field 4” to “across from Field 4.”

VOTE: Mr. D’Innocenzo offered a motion to approve the 8/24/2022 minutes as amended. Mr. Core seconded this motion, which passed unanimously. VOTE: 5-0.

2. Diwali Festival at Idylbrook on Saturday, October 22 - discussion/vote

Ms. Balaji was present to address this matter. She noted that she moved to Medway in the last year and wanted to share community interest in hosting a Diwali festival. She stated that she is expecting about 100 people based on a recent survey. She also noted that she is hoping to host the event from 5-8PM on the evening of October 22, 2022 and requested Idylbrook as a venue for this event.

Ms. Rossi shared concerns about surrounding sporting events on the Idylbrook fields on October 22, 2022, as well as potential issues with the condition of the field itself.

Ms. Balaji noted that the event will involve string lights, glow sticks, and electric candles, but no open flames or fireworks. She also stated that attendees will bring their own food, which will be set up on folding tables.

Ms. Rossi suggested Oakland as a location for this event, which the commissioners agreed with. Ms. Harrington offered to look into the availability of this space.

Ms. Balaji also provided clarification that Diwali is a festival of lights that celebrates the triumph of good over evil; she also noted that the celebration revolves around food, community, lights, and art.

Ms. Rossi noted that the Board will not be charging for access to town facilities for the Diwali Festival.

Mr. Murphy noted the importance of the group cleaning up after the festival and leaving the facility as they found it.

VOTE: Mr. Farrell offered a motion to approve the Diwali Festival at Oakland from 5-8PM on October 22, 2022. Ms. Rossi seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. VOTE: 4-0.

3. 2022 FYE Budget: Discuss/vote to move funds to Field Stabilization Account

Ms. Rossi compared the 2022 FYE Budget with the 2018 FYE Budget. The Board noted the role of inflation, as well as a difference in the number of tournaments, as contributing factors to the difference between the two budgets.

The Board also discussed difference in lighting usage at the fields as a potential disparity in the aforementioned budgets.

Additionally, Ms. Rossi suggested moving some funds from the budget to the Field Stabilization Account.

The Board agreed to continue discussing this matter at future meetings, particularly in regard to fees and rates for field and facility access.

4. SLA Tri Board Meeting: Discussion

Ms. Rossi noted that the SLA tri-board meeting is scheduled for November 1, 2022 at 6PM at the middle school. She confirmed with the commissioners that they will have a quorum present at that meeting.

5. Multisport Court at Choate: Status of survey and funding options

Ms. Harrington shared that she will be attending a meeting on September 29, 2022 to discuss the details of the survey and the potential construction of a multisport court at Choate.

Ms. Rossi noted that she raised this topic at the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) meeting and advised that CPC funding can be used towards this and the committee seemed open to the idea of helping to fund this project.

Mr. Trindade inquired if the Board plans to raise this issue at the Fall 2022 or Spring 2023 town meeting. He suggested that the Board raise the topic at the Fall 2022 meeting in order to get underway with construction during the current fiscal year.

6. Snack Shack at Choate: Discuss status

Ms. Rossi noted that she raised this topic to the Facility Review Committee, which is now under their review.

Mr. Trindade clarified that the Facility Review Committee felt the cost was prohibitive, particularly in regard to the idea of adding a second floor and an elevator. However, the committee was open to ensuring the roof is safe and enhancing the interior of the existing structure. He also noted the potential to knock down the existing structure and rebuild.

The Board agreed to continue discussing this matter at future meetings.

7. Introduction: Erin Robinson – Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation

Ms. Robinson introduced herself to the Board and shared her observations thus far in her new role, particularly regarding the existing condition of facilities, as well as recent community activities. She also noted that there are few programs that are currently underway and going well, such as a middle school art club and a sewing club. In terms of upcoming winter programs, Ms. Robinson noted the potential for a trivia night or a family game night.

8. Cricket update – Scheduling of games this fall

Ms. Rossi noted that the cricket group recently requested field access for Labor Day and Columbus Day, both of which were approved.

Mr. Shea noted that he spectated one of the cricket group's games recently and stated that there were a significant number of people present supporting the team. He also noted that he did not observe any parking issues. Mr. Shea also stated that the condition of the Idylbrook fields was far better than its previous state.

9. Native Indigenous People Day – Change of date

Ms. Rossi noted that the group who originally intended to gather for Native Indigenous People Day wishes to change the date of their event.

Mr. Trindade noted that the group has hired a member of the Massachusetts tribe to speak the group, but the speaker is only available on October 15, 2022. On behalf of the group, Mr. Trindade therefore requested access to Choate Park for this event on October 15, 2022 from 12-4PM. Ms. Harrington confirmed that the space is available at that time.

VOTE: Mr. Murphy offered a motion to approve the change of date for the Native Indigenous People Day event from October 8, 2022 to October 15, 2022 from 12-4PM. Mr. Core seconded this motion, which passed unanimously. VOTE: 4-0.

10. Pick-up soccer at Idylbrook – update

Ms. Harrington noted that a pickup soccer group used the Idylbrook fields without authorization. She noted that she reached out to the group to provide permitting materials.

11. Podzka Infield Replacement – Medway Youth Baseball is requesting funds

Mr. Coakley was present to address this matter and requested funding to replace the infield via Podzka. He did not currently have an estimate for the cost but noted that he can obtain a few quotes and provide them to the Board.

Ms. Rossi inquired if Medway Youth Baseball would be willing to contribute to the funding. Mr. Coakley noted that he will follow up with the group on this matter.

Mr. Murphy requested that Mr. Coakley provide Medway Youth Baseball's financial statements for the Board's review. Mr. Coakley agreed to provide this documentation.

Mr. Coakley noted that his next meeting with Medway Youth Baseball is October 17, 2022, and offered to provide the Board with an update afterwards.

Mr. Coakley and the Board also discussed recent issues of vandalism on the equipment shed and on the tennis courts.

12. NEFC March Tournaments

Ms. Harrington noted that Mr. Jones emailed her regarding the NEFC March Tournaments, which was scheduled one weekend last year, but the group canceled a few weeks prior. Ms.

Harrington stated that Mr. Jones inquired if the tournament could have facility access March 17-19, 2023 and March 24-26, 2023. The Board noted that the second requested weekend will likely overlap with Medway spring sports. Mr. Murphy discussed the potential to raise fees and costs to be commensurate with inflation, particularly for groups outside of Medway, as well as the importance of deferring to town groups.

Ms. Rossi and Mr. Murphy discussed the importance of benefitting financially from outside groups, but also being cautious about groups who have canceled previously.

Mr. Farrell noted that the only conflict of importance is if Medway High School lacrosse has a practice or game that interferes. He also noted that the financial net gain of allowing the NEFC March Tournament facility access for 2 weekends could assist with funding some of the Board's intended projects. Ms. Rossi offered to speak with the groups in question to see if a compromise is possible. The Board agreed to discuss this matter further and ideally vote on it at the October 26, 2022 meeting.

13. Trash at Choate – update

Ms. Harrington noted that the Board of Health has advised bringing trash barrels back to Choate or increase the frequency of emptying the barrels.

Ms. Harrington offered to draft a memo to the Board of Health regarding the steps that the Board of Parks has already taken to combat trash-related issues.

14. Fall Fields update

There were no updates at this time.

15. Chair update

There were no updates at this time, but Mr. Farrell noted that there will be a bonfire in the middle school parking lot on November 23, 2022. He stated that the primary difference this year is that there will be an 18-wheeler flatbed at the event.

16. Director's update

Ms. Harrington noted that the Trunk or Treat event will be at Oakland from 10AM-12PM on October 8, 2022. She also noted that the Howl-o-ween Dog Parade is also on October 8, 2022 from 1PM-2PM at Oakland.

VOTE: At 8:56PM, Mr. D'Innocenzo offered a motion to adjourn. Mr. Farrell seconded this motion, which passed unanimously. VOTE: 5-0.

Next meeting: October 26, 2022

Respectfully submitted by,
Amelia McLaughlin, Recording Secretary
Commonwealth of Massachusetts