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TOWN OF MEDWAY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

PARKS COMMISSION

APPROVED 7/28/2022

Town of Medway
Board of Park Commissioners Meeting
June 29, 2022 – 6:30PM
Sanford Hall, Medway Town Hall
155 Village Street

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

Absent: John Farrell

Others: Julie Harrington, Sean Harrington, Susan Dietrich, Leanne Harris, Dan Shea, Peter Tarbox

Call to Order: At 6:31PM, Ms. Rossi called the meeting to order.

Public Comments: There were none at this time.

Other Business: There was no other business at this time.

1. Approval of Minutes: April 27, June 1, and June 16, 2022

VOTE: Mr. Core offered a motion to accept the 4/27/22 minutes as amended. Mr. D'Innocenzo seconded this motion, which passed unanimously. VOTE: 4-0.

VOTE: Ms. Rossi offered a motion to accept the 6/1/22 minutes as amended. Mr. Core seconded this motion, which passed unanimously. VOTE: 4-0.

VOTE: Ms. Rossi offered a motion to change the agenda for the approval of the minutes for the 6/15/22 minutes to be reflected as 6/16/22. Mr. Murphy seconded this motion, which passed unanimously. VOTE: 4-0.

VOTE: Ms. Rossi offered a motion to accept the 6/16/22 minutes as amended. Mr. Murphy seconded this motion, which passed unanimously. VOTE: 4-0.

2. Handball Wall Mural – Discuss/vote on contributing funds towards project

Ms. Rossi shared that the construction of the mural will be closer to \$10,000 than originally estimated. The mural will now be designed on both sides. The Cultural Council intends to put

\$500 towards this. Ms. Rossi proposed matching those funds, but wanted to avoid financing the bulk of the project. The board noted additional expenses for this project, including a lift for the artist to complete the mural; this was not originally factored into the estimate.

Ms. Harris noted that the Cultural Council originally launched this project and should therefore be primarily financially responsible. Moving forward, she suggested that the Council be prepared to fund their own projects, as opposed to seeking funding from other boards and committees.

Mr. Murphy noted that if the Cultural Council was providing more funding, he would feel more comfortable advocating that the Board of Parks match that funding. He and Ms. Rossi both agreed with Ms. Harris's assessment that the Cultural Council's current contribution places the financial onus on the Board of Parks. The committee also discussed possibly funding one particular aspect of the mural, such as the peace garden-facing wall.

Mr. Murphy suggested identifying a specific cost; he noted that inviting them to the next Board of Parks meeting would be beneficial. Ms. Rossi agreed.

3. Policy for Pavilions – discuss feedback from Select Board

Ms. Rossi noted the importance of insurance for events at the pavilions, particularly with larger groups (10-20 people) who reserve the space for a designated period of time (over 2 hours); in response, Mr. Core expressed concern that people may not abide by the regulations, particularly in regard to insurance.

Ms. Rossi noted that the fee should be hourly; she also noted that there should be differences between resident rates, non-resident rate, non-profit rates, non-Medway-related rates, etc., all of which could be revisited and potentially renegotiated on an annual basis.

Ms. Rossi also shared that these spaces are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. The board noted potential concerns with park goers sharing spaces, such as picnic tables, with the members of the reserved party. They noted that representatives from town hall can help mitigate this issue.

Ms. Rossi noted the following potential hourly rates for pavilion use: Medway residents: \$25, Medway youth organizations, non-profits, and businesses: \$50, and non-Medway organizations: \$75.

Ms. Harris inquired about time limits for the usage of these pavilions. Ms Rossi responded that this depends on the type of event. Ms. Harris suggested limiting the usage so that there are at least a few amenities, like the picnic tables, available for community usage, even during a reservation. She also suggested potentially breaking the space into two parts: reservable and non-reservable.

Mr. Murphy expressed concern about how the added regulations might lead to unnecessary complications. In response, Ms. Rossi suggested releasing specific days that can be reserved; Mr. Core suggested just addressing the requests on a case-by-case basis, as the other approach would add extra complication on the Board's end.

Ms. Rossi summarized by reviewing the date for the triggers, leaving the insurance expectations as currently documented, the current grid of fees, and the current responsibilities of the reserved

groups in regard to police detailing and maintenance. She noted that the Board will vote on this matter at the next meeting.

4. Master Plan Summary – provide overview of status of Medway Master Plan

Ms. Rossi noted that the Master Plan is at the end of Phase 3. Goal 23 falls under the Board of Parks's jurisdiction; there are currently 5 strategies to achieve this goal. One of the strategies was constructing a space for teens, such as an ice rink or volleyball area. Ms. Rossi suggested building a pool or multipurpose facility.

Mr. Murphy expressed concern about the idea of a pool; he felt there was too much exposure. In response, Ms. Rossi clarified that a pool is the one facility that could potentially benefit community members of all age groups. Ms. Harrington also noted that this could be a lucrative venture for the town as well.

At 7:10PM, Mr. D'Innocenzo arrived.

5. Cricket Status - review conservation feedback; discuss next steps

Ms. Rossi updated the Board that the tour with the Conservation Commission was successful and has been relayed to town hall management and the legal department for licensing. The Board noted that the team's next steps will be exclusively with the Department of Public Works.

6. Trash at Choate - update

Mr. Harrington noted that the trash levels have decreased at Choate since the elimination of the trash barrels.

Mr. Tarbox noted that he has seen a significant amount of trash around the perimeter of Choate and that he personally misses having the receptacles.

Mr. Harrington stated that the park aesthetically looks better without the receptacles and that the DPW will continue to monitor the situation regarding trash and litter.

7. Volleyball – discuss location and options

The Board discussed how the volleyball court was addressed as a potential idea in the Master Plan's recommendations.

Ms. Harrington suggested a portable net; she also noted that it could be on grass or on sand. The Board discussed potential locations at the high school, along with McGovern.

8. VFW Softball League

Ms. Harrington shared that the league wants their permit terminated. The primary concern was that the league members consumed alcohol on the fields. She noted that there has been police involvement and suggested the Board reach out to Andrea Crow Henry.

Mr. D’Innocenzo suggested reminding the league members of the language in their permit, which includes not drinking on the field.

9. Boating at Choate

Ms. Harrington shared that a resident was curious about kayaking in Choate. She noted potential concerns with liability and safety issues. She suggested hosting a specific night for boating in the park.

Mr. D’Innocenzo suggested adding signage about boating at one’s own risk.

10. Pixie project rain date

Ms. Harrington relayed that the Pixie Project wished to identify a rain date for their upcoming event.

VOTE: Ms. Rossi offered a motion to allow the Pixie Project to have a rain date of Sunday, July 31. Mr. Core seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. VOTE: 4-0.

11. Summer field fees – Scorpions, Medway Youth Soccer and Old School

Ms. Harrington shared that teams are seeking a bulk rate for summer access to the fields.

Mr. Shea asked for access to fields for a new pickup sports program on Wednesdays in the summer.

Ms. Rossi did not wish to charge them for this usage.

VOTE: Ms. Rossi offered a motion for Medway Youth Soccer to use the Idyllbrook fields from 5-8PM on Wednesdays in the summer from July 13-August 31. Mr. D’Innocenzo seconded this motion, which passed unanimously. VOTE: 4-0.

VOTE: Mr. Murphy offered a motion to charge the Scorpions team a \$500 bulk rate for summer access to the fields. Mr. D’Innocenzo seconded this motion, which passed unanimously. VOTE: 4-0.

VOTE: Ms. Rossi offered a motion to give Old School the same rate as last year per game, pending his flexibility with the schedule. Mr. D’Innocenzo seconded this motion, which passed unanimously. VOTE: 4-0.

12. Spring and summer fields update

This agenda item was addressed in conjunction with the above item.

13. Chair update

Ms. Rossi noted that there was recently a webinar regarding Open Meeting Law. She noted that she has adjusted language on the Parks agendas in order to be in compliance with the expectations.

14. Director's update

Ms. Harrington had no updates at this time.

VOTE: At 8:46PM, Mr. Murphy offered a motion to adjourn. Mr. D'Innocenzo seconded this motion, which passed unanimously. VOTE: 4-0.

Next Meeting: July 28, 2022

Respectfully submitted by,
Amelia McLaughlin, Recording Secretary