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TOWN OF MEDWAY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

PARKS COMMISSION

APPROVED 3/2/2022

Town of Medway
Board of Park Commissioners Meeting
February 9, 2022 – 6:30 PM
Medway Senior Center

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

Absent: Debi Rossi

Others: Julie Harrington, Director of Parks and Recreation; Peter Pelletier, Director of Public Works; Susan Dietrich, Jessica Earl, Preston Gales, John Cloutier, David Fogaren, and Adnan Khan

Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:34 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: December 1, 2021

VOTE: Mr. Farrell offered a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Mr. Core seconded this motion, which passed unanimously. D’Innocenzo: aye, Core: aye, Murphy: aye, Farrell: aye.
VOTE: 4-0.

Agenda Item #2 – Summer Events at Choate

Ms. Harrington shared that Judy Moffatt reached out to her about the Pixie Project. The original date was July 16, 2022. However, that conflicts with Celebrate Medway Day; the new date will likely be July 9, 2022. It will follow a similar structure as last year and will include fairy houses and a few food trucks in the park.

Mr. Murphy expressed concerns about potential parking conflicts with the baseball teams. Mr.

Farrell shared this concern and suggested an alternate location. Ms. Harrington agreed to reach out to Ms. Moffatt with the following options: move the date to July 23rd or 30th, move the date to sometime in August, or move the location to Oakland.

Ms. Harrington also shared that Celebrate Medway Day is scheduled for July 16, 2022.

Agenda Item #3 – Baseball Fence Update

Ms. Harrington shared that shipment for the baseball fence will occur in about 3 weeks, due to a delay in acquiring the materials. Mr. Core and Mr. D’Innocenzo asked if the other fence is usable; Mr. Farrell stated that it is not usable.

Ms. Harrington identified mid-March as a rough estimate for the arrival of the fence. Mr. Pelletier expressed concerns about storage and movement of the fence; he stated that using tractors might be an ideal solution, as they would accomplish the job without damaging the field. He stated that he will make a definitive decision on this matter once the equipment arrives.

Agenda Item #4 – SLA

Ms. Dietrich was present at the meeting and shared that the School Committee accepts the current version, as it is a product of ongoing conversation between Mr. Boynton and Superintendent Pires.

Mr. Murphy noted a concern about the content of page 3 of the SLA document about gym rentals and costs; he clarified to Ms. Dietrich that Parks will no longer have to pay fees. There is now a reciprocal relationship between the schools and the Board that each has unlimited access to each other’s fields and facilities.

Mr. Murphy asked if “schools” includes Community Ed; Ms. Dietrich said she will ask Dr. Pires about this tomorrow and will follow up with Ms. Harrington.

Mr. D’Innocenzo inquired about the start time of the fields; Ms. Harrington shared that the start time is 6PM. He also requested that the language about not conflicting with the School Committee should be clarified and framed in a way that is more accessible. In response, Ms. Dietrich shared that all School Committee policies are accessible via the School Committee website. She noted that it is always fully updated and approved for the public’s viewing. She shared that there is a policy subcommittee with whom the Board can work if they are ever in need of a new policy. She underscored the potential for collaboration. Mr. Murphy inquired whether the School Committee allows advertising; Ms. Dietrich shared that there can be no advertising of controlled substances, such as alcohol or tobacco. She noted that advertising within reason including scoreboards is acceptable. She also shared that the School Committee is cognizant of the costs of maintaining fields and therefore approves appropriate advertising.

Ms. Dietrich shared that the School Committee does not want too much advertising present; Mr. Murphy asked why this was the case. Ms. Dietrich clarified that much of the rationale is due to aesthetics. Mr. Murphy noted the opportunity for increased.

Agenda Item #5 – Cricket update

Mr. Khan was present to address this matter. The field in question is in the back of Lower Memorial. The group would use it Saturdays and Sundays from April 15, 2022 through September 15, 2022 for 5-6 hours each day. He inquired whether the matter is pending or fully approved. Mr. Murphy inquired about the pitch cost; Mr. Khan replied that this price is approximately \$10,000. Mr. Khan asked if the group can have their labor and investment work towards the total cost of \$10,000. When the total costs reach \$10,000, then the group will begin paying full price. He also noted that the group would ideally like to practice an additional day in the week.

Mr. Farrell inquired if the Board has given this precedent to anyone else; Mr. Murphy replied that it has never been done before.

Ms. Harrington expressed concern about potential parking conflicts. Mr. Gales noted that softball does not practice during this timeframe, which would ameliorate potential issues in this regard. Mr. Farrell expressed concern about the Board at least breaking even financially, if not having a positive financial net gain.

Mr. D’Innocenzo asked to what extent cricket is popular in Medway and would therefore benefit Medway; Mr. Khan clarified that it is a very new sport to Medway, but there is existing interest in the MetroWest.

Mr. Murphy informed Mr. Khan about existing water issues at the fields. Mr. Khan confirmed that he was aware of this potential issue. Mr. Pelletier clarified that he will look into this issue and report back to the Board when he has further information.

Mr. Murphy informed Mr. Khan that they will continue to deliberate on the logistics, as well as discuss it with administration at Town Hall, and report back.

Mr. Khan shared that his group is nonprofit and funds their own activities and asked for a discount on this basis. Mr. Murphy noted that all groups who seek field access from the Board are nonprofits. Ms. Harrington suggested that the Board readdress this matter at their next meeting on March 30, 2022.

Agenda Item #6 – Spring Fields

Ms. Harrington reviewed the schedule for March - early June with the Board members and fielded clarifying questions about teams, locations, and any potential conflicts.

Mr. Cloutier inquired about accessibility for the lacrosse teams; Mr. Harrington noted that she will share the schedule with Mr. Cloutier via email.

On behalf of Medway Youth Softball, Mr. Gales and Ms. Earl were present. He shared that they are budgeted for Center Street and Kelly Street; they had to pay \$50-\$100 to prepare the Center Street field for play. He asked the Board for a discount on Lamson use.

Mr. Murphy asked Mr. Gales and Ms. Earl to share their financial report with Ms. Harrington so that the Board can make an informed, equitable decision.

VOTE: Mr. D’Innocenzo offered a motion to accept the spring fields schedule as presented. Mr.

Core seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. D’Innocenzo: aye, Core: aye, Murphy: aye, Farrell: aye. **VOTE: 4-0.**

Agenda Item #7 – Fields update

This item was not addressed at this meeting.

Agenda Item #8 – Chair Update

Ms. Rossi was not present at the meeting to address this matter.

Agenda Item #9 - Director Update

Ms. Harrington noted that summer registration begins Monday, February 14. She also noted that she is currently working on spring and summer programs and concerts, including summer camp.

**Motion to Adjourn: At 8:04PM, Mr. Farrell offered a motion to adjourn at 8:04PM. Mr. D’Innocenzo seconded this motion, which passed unanimously. D’Innocenzo: aye, Core: aye, Murphy: aye, Farrell: aye.
VOTE: 4-0**

Meeting Adjourned: 8:04pm

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Respectfully submitted by,
Amelia McLaughlin, Recording Secretary