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TOWN OF MEDWAY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

PARKS COMMISSION

APPROVED 2/22/2023

Town of Medway
Board of Park Commissioners Meeting
January 25, 2023 – 6:30 PM
Sanford Hall – Medway Town Hall

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

Absent: John Farrell

Others: Julie Harrington Director of Parks & Recreation,
Glenn Trindade – Selectboard member
Jon Clouthier – Medway Youth Lacrosse
Dan Shea – Medway Youth Soccer
Sean Harrington – Deputy Director DPW
Susan Dietrich – School committee
Preston Gales – Medway Youth Softball

Call to Order: At 6:32PM, Ms. Rossi called the meeting to order.

Public Comments: There were none at this time.

1. Approval of Minutes: Sept 28, 2022 and Nov 30, 2022–

9/28/22 – change NEFC tournament note, mentions a conflict with baseball, should be changed to lacrosse.

Mr. D’Innocenzo offered a motion to approve 9/28/22 minutes, as amended and Mr. Core seconded the motion – vote 4-0 approved.

11/30/22 – minutes, under #3 Community Ed, clarify the amount of the fees, \$7,500 for summer adventure camp and other programs \$6.

Correct spelling of Murphy.

#6 – take out information about Pete
correct next meeting to 2023

Mr. D’Innocenzo offered a motion to approve the 11/30 minutes as modified, Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote 4-0 approved.

2. Parks budget and status fiscal TD 12/31/2022

Ms. Rossi passed out copies of the net income by facility through June 2022 as well as up to date numbers through December 2022. She discussed that they take a loss on a lot of the grass fields and have to make it up by renting out the turf fields. She noted that through December, the expenses are higher than the income. As of 6/30, the budget balance is \$181,000. She doesn't feel comfortable that it's enough of a balance given future expenses to put money into revolving fund. July Through Dec revenues were around \$190k and expenses were \$324k. Expenses include salary, electric, contract services etc. The committee wants to understand expenses and determine whether they need to raise field rates. Revenue and expenses sometimes occur in different fiscal years. Ms. Rossi has the expense detail for each field. They are not a profit center and challenged by town to put money away to pay for things, but the committee agrees that the department is already paying for things that they aren't making money on. The money being made on the turf fields is not covering the expenses of other fields including lights, maintenance etc. Ms. Rossi's concern is that the Finance Committee is looking for Parks to put money aside, but committee feels that their purpose is to take care of the fields and provide programs to the town which they are accomplishing. The revenue from the spring tournaments will provide income to cover current deficit. Ms. Rossi will meet with Select Board to present the budget.

3. Medway Farmers Market – promotion and involvement

Ms. Rossi met with the farmer from Medway Community Farm to discuss the current Tuesday evening farmers markets. The farm is not making any money from these and they are not the organization that runs the event. They do not like having it on Tues nights at Choate Park due to low turnout of both vendors and customers. Ms. Rossi asked whether the committee wants to help promote farmers' market and keep one in town. The Committee agreed to continue the conversation and try to keep a farmer's market. Perhaps the plaza would be a better location instead of the park.

4. Wellesley/Boston sports performance center – overview of what's there

Ms. Rossi recently visited the center. She walked around watched a lacrosse game and swim meet and commented that every space was being used. This is a public/private venture. Mr. D'Innocenzo explained that there is a managing partner, Edge. The town provides the land and the management company looks for investors. They started with sports and now they lease out additional space for other uses, i.e performance management group on 2nd floor. The managing partner does the design, development and manages operations. There is an opportunity for advertising and naming rights with private enterprise. Ms. Rossi suggested that they start a conversation to confirm what the role of the management company is and whether they feel Medway would be an appropriate location. If so, they would need be to pick a location and go out to RFP as part of the process. The only cost to town would be the land. The committee would also need to discuss with Select Board to see if there is interest. Perhaps start with a conversation with Wellesley selectman to see how they got started. Glenn Trindade is interested and mentioned that they have been looking into and following this Wellesley facility for a few years. Mr. Trindade & Mr. Core suggested talking to Edge first and then asking Wellesley town people next. One of the benefits is bringing people into town. There are no Olympic size pools in MetroWest so could be many groups interested in renting. Mr. Trindade feels that VFW property is the only appropriate space and that there won't be town money available, so it would need to be a public/private venture.

5. RBI Rental fee of Cassidy in July 2023: Discussion/Vote

Ms. Harrington – RBI is looking to rent 3 fields at Cassidy on July 5-7 from 9-12 and questioned what the rate would be since they haven't had an hourly rate in the past. She confirmed that this would not conflict with Medway Youth baseball. Mr. Murphy suggested offering the grass rate of \$75/hour. Mr. D'Innocenzo asked for clarification of whether this was per field or day or hour. Mr. Murphy asked what age group and Ms. Harrington wasn't sure. \$75 x 3x 3 is Committee recommendation and see what they come back with.

VOTE: Mr. D'Innocenzo offered a motion to offer fields to RBI for dates and pricing above and Mr. Core seconded the motion. Vote 4-0 approved.

6. Events approval parks/fields: Medway Youth Softball tournament

Preston Gales – Medway Youth Softball

Mr. Gales is requesting use of softball fields for a new tournament on June 2-4, partnering with Millis. There will be 2 divisions, 14U and 12U and the towns will share volunteers and sponsors. It will be organized and run by a group of parents. They are seeking permission from the Middle School for concessions and possibly assistance from DPW with more porta potties. There would be a maximum of 6 teams at once per location, 12 girls per team. Up to 12 teams in tournament, they are planning to charge \$550 per team. The tournament will start Friday night and championship game on Sunday. Ms. Rossi asked if Lamson Field could be available for a championship game under the lights. Graduation will be over, and it could be fun to play a championship game at HS. There was a discussion of how to rent and charge for porta potty's. Ms. Rossi asked Mr. Harrington from DPW to help coordinate rentals. They are planning on food trucks for concessions, committee agrees it's easier. Mr. Gales said that they need to make sure that the measurements are regulation in order to have a tournament, Mr. Harrington confirmed it's already been done. Mr. Core mentioned that parking cones need to be set up in parking lot. Ms. Rossi asked whether there will be vendors and Mr. Gales replied that they aren't planning on it. Committee suggested an outside vendor that makes t-shirts on the spot. Mr. Core will give contact info.

VOTE: Mr. D'Innocenzo offered a motion to approve the event, Mr. Core seconded this motion. Vote 4-0 approved.

7. Trash at Choate: update

Mr. Harrington from DPW went by Choate today was noted that there was a Wendy's container on the ground, but he didn't see any other litter. Outside of the last meeting about moving the barrels, he has not received any calls or emails with complaints or inquiries about this. After the barrels were pulled, he got an email from Derrick that the Board of Health was complaining about it. BOH asked whether the DPW had talked to professionals about removing barrels prior to doing it. Mr. Harrington did speak to colleagues for advice. He has not seen any issues, he has heard stories of people dropping off bags of trash prior to the barrels being removed, difficult to say if pulling barrels was the right move. There was food waste when there were barrels. Board of Health suggested that DPW needed to go more often. Mr. Harrington confirmed that it is already being checked daily. Mr. Harrington thinks it looks better, in his opinion. DPW will keep defending pulling the barrels and will keep an eye on it. DPW isn't sure what BOH's final decision will be. More and more town are doing this. Medfield just added a rail trail without barrels, carry in and carry out. Committee will research what other towns are doing and see what happens in the spring.

8. Spring Tournaments: update

Ms. Harrington noted that spring tournaments are booked, something on every weekend in March. Ms. Rossi asked if the Scorpion Bowl is Easter. Ms. Harrington is keeping one day for Pete Soule, Lacrosse. NE Surf, March 3-4, 2nd weekend is FC Stars (won't commit until Feb), NEFC is March 14-21 and first Sat in April is Peter Soule. Ms. Rossi noted that Pete Soule was at Gillette and ran into a guy that does summer camps who reached out to Ms. Rossi about daytime summer camp asked for grass and turf. Ms. Harrington is determining if this can take place same time as rec dept summer camps.

9. Springs Fields update

Per Ms. Harrington, most of the requests are in so she can start looking at it and have a proposed schedule finalized by Feb. Lacrosse wants 2 turf fields, soccer needs turf and Scorpion needs 2 nights turf too. Ms. Rossi asked if HS has any night games that will conflict with other programs. There are quite a few for boys and girls, JV and Varsity. Nights games are all at Hanlon Field. Mr. Core asked Ms. Harrington to ask if Scorpion needs a full field or could they share. Dan Shea from Medway Youth Soccer asked coaches what nights they want and will work with Ms. Harrington on needs. Ms. Rossi asked Jon Cloutier from Medway Youth Lacrosse about his requests, he asked for both North Field and Lamson 6:00-7:30 on grass fields is for younger kids. Mrs. Cloutier mentioned that grass fields aren't lined and there are no goals, so not good for older kids. Mr. D'Innocenzo asked if registrations had been completed and they said today is the cut off to know how many teams to put in for. Numbers are steady, big classes, sports wise. Ms. Rossi asked Ms. Harrington if she will need help with decision making for fields, Ms. Harrington will draft something for February meeting. Ms. Rossi mentioned that they will have to balance with renting out because income is needed. Soccer is Sat morning games, Lacrosse is Sunday, usually whole day at North. Looking to do one weekend to have boys & girls together at home. Ms. Harrington looking into it.

10. Chair update – none

11. Director's update

- Ms. Harrington mentioned that the winter program started, and the numbers seem good. There are 20 kids in one class and 13 in another, it will cover costs.
- Summer camp registration opens 2/6, the brochure is done. There are fun new programs, hoping community will be receptive.
- Summer concerts are booked, Monday nights at Oakland.

Motion to Adjourn: At 8:24 PM, Ms. Rossi offered a motion to adjourn. Mr. Murphy seconded this motion, which passed unanimously. VOTE: 4-0.

Future Park Meeting Dates: February 22, 2023

Respectfully submitted by,
Marianne Boynton, Recording Secretary
Commonwealth of Massachusetts