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TOWN OF MEDWAY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

PARKS COMMISSION

APPROVED 7/27/2023

Town of Medway
Board of Park Commissioners Meeting
June 28, 2023 – 6:30 PM
Sanford Hall, Medway Town Hall

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

Absent: John Farrell

Others: Julie Harrington, Director of Parks and Recreation
Pete Pelletier, Director of Public Works
Anil Mahalaha
Jim Dunne
Andriy Manchenko
Jonathan Minnaert
Patricia Sampson
Erin Griswold
John Cloutier
Dan Shea

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

Public Comments: There were none at this time.

Other Business

1. Approval of Minutes: May 31, 2023 – postpone to next meeting

2. Lamson scoreboard power options

Mr. Pelletier clarified that the issue with power to the scoreboard is that they need to use heavier gauge wire since it’s such a far distance between scoreboard and the conduit. They have a quote for \$9,225 parts plus \$3,392 labor, \$12,617.50 total to run the new wire. They have another quote of \$5,540 for a solar power source. Ms. Harrington reached out to Westwood because they have used a similar solar set up for their softball field for the past 15 years and have only had to replace batteries every 3-5 year @ \$150/battery. Mr. D’Innocenzo did research and found that these systems can run for 40 hours, but asked if it dimmed and whether there is a switch that someone has turn on and off. Is there a back-up if it runs out of solar

power? Ms. Harrington asked the Westwood contact, and it does not have a switch. Ms. Rossi was concerned about whether it would last if there is a 3-day tournament and no sun. Mr. D’Innocenzo and Mr. Core feel it’s a good idea to use solar to move toward being a more ‘green community’. Ms. Harrington added that they wouldn’t have to pay for electricity.

Mr. D’Innocenzo made a motion to move forward with the solar power system for the Lamson scoreboard for a price of \$5,540. Mr. Core seconded the motion. Approved in a unanimous vote, 4-0.

3. Allergy concerns at Playgrounds

Patricia Sampson confirmed that she will have a display at Medway Day to promote food allergy awareness. Ms. Rossi called New Castle Park & Rec in NY to ask them about their allergy awareness signs, they said that they have the signs up, mainly near the picnic areas and have not received any complaints. Ms. Rossi thinks the community bulletin board is a good spot for the signs and they could be brighter to stand out. Ms. Rossi expressed concern that the other signs in the parks are for rules and regulations and including food allergy information could imply some liability. Ms. Rossi and Ms. Sampson did meet with the Board of Health but they did not offer any other suggestions. A community member mentioned that there was concern about kids with allergies at town camps and noted that non campers also use the playgrounds. Ms. Griswold asked what the difference was between signed saying ‘no bikes’ for safety vs. allergy awareness signs for safety. Ms. Rossi said it was good point. D’Innocenzo questioned whether Town Council has to approve a sign and Ms. Rossi responded that this was included in the sign policies to be discussed. The board members agreed to have a sign, and suggested it be as simple as possible. Ms. Rossi will go to Town Council to get approval for size and design. Mr. Pelletier has a company he uses to make up signs and will ask them for pricing. These would be placed at playgrounds at Oakland, Choate and School St. Ms. Griswold suggests that there be a sign at each entrance. At the next meeting, the members will discuss size, design, location, pricing and number of signs and vote.

4. Sign & Advertising Policies

Ms. Rossi feels that policies for any signs and/or advertising should be consistent. Board members reviewed written policies that had been drafted previously. These drafts listed specific parks, but Ms. Rossi wants to expand to say all parks and fields. Mr. Core suggested that we do not need to have limits to the size of the signs for temporary signs and suggested that they need to define ‘temporary’. Mr. Core suggested that temporary signs should have fewer steps to go through for approval. The policies have to go back to Town Manager to review with concerns and suggestions. Ms. Rossi said that she doesn’t think there are any conflicts between the advertising policy and sign policy. Mr. Core agreed. Ms. Rossi will forward to the Town Manager.

5. Field Fees - discussion

Ms. Rossi wants the members to think about the fact that out-of-town groups pay hourly and other groups pay by season and asked whether they should consider hourly for all, Ms. Harrington responded that she did not want to change everyone to hourly pricing. Ms. Rossi also questioned whether they should increase the rate for turf fields for in-town groups. Most members said yes. Ms. Rossi questioned whether they should charge to use lights (flat fee or different hourly rate) or charge more for the use of the scoreboard. Mr. Murphy thinks it should

be all inclusive (lights, scoreboard etc.), Mr. D'Innocenzo agreed that one fee makes it easier. Mr. Murphy suggests looking at groups who aren't using the full field and look at changing time slots, i.e. 7-9 am instead of 8-10. He also reiterated that if it rains or if fields aren't used, groups should still be charged and told that they can't give field times back last minute and not be charged. Mr. Murphy feels that they need to adjust out-of-town pricing so that it is higher than in town. He proposed that they ask groups to provide league financials before permits are issued. Other members suggest that maybe they should ask for financials if there are special requests. Mr. Murphy suggested having tiers of rates, the more hours requested, the higher the hourly rate. Fees for grass fields end up higher because they have to pay for the fields to be lined too. The board will schedule a separate meeting in September for just field fees.

Dan Shea from Medway Youth Soccer tries to get lighted fields for the fall. He is interested in trying to come up with a solution for balancing costs and fields (grass vs. turf). He mentioned that they didn't like the HS grass fields with lights, they were always wet.

6. Medway Youth Football use of Coakley

Ms. Harrington talked to Nick Guarino. He asked about moving games to Charland to be able to have food trucks. They are looking to get more proceeds than if they use concession stands. Mr. Core mentioned that if the concession stand at the high school is open, then no other food trucks or sales permitted. Mr. Guarino may still ask for the flag games on Saturday at the middle schools.

7. Medway Youth Lacrosse – Storage North/Lamson

John Cloutier attended, representing Medway Youth Lacrosse because they are looking for storage space between the 2 fields for use during the season and possible in the off season. To store goals (smaller portable goals), goalie gear, balls, cones, buckets, nets etc. They are thinking it could be about 10-15 feet long, 8 wide and maybe 7 feet tall. MYL will pay for it and bring it in/out. Mr. Core offered to go down and look at possible locations with easy access. The members asked Mr. Cloutier to provide more firm dimensions and maybe some sample pictures.

Ms. Rossi asked Dan Shea about the green lock box at Idlebrook. Mr. Shea said he thinks there are sandbags in it, but they stopped using it because of bees. It's small but they can clean it out for cricket to use.

8. Adult soccer group field rental

Jim Dunne, Johnathan Minnaert, Anil Mahalaha and Andriy Manchenko attend to discuss getting a permit for M/W/F 5-7 (or dark) and Sun am 8-10 for an adult soccer league. Mr. Core and Ms. Harrington are thinking upper Memorial for summer, but for the fall they will have to look at other space. Could possibly use lower Memorial for fall or McGovern. The group would prefer a full field for 11 v 11 because the league is very popular. Mr. Minnaert thinks Upper Memorial is a good location. Mr. Core offered to go with them to look at the lower field for the fall. They would rather play on a smoother field than a bigger one to avoid injuries. Ms. Rossi discussed fees, they would pay to cover costs and for permit and dedicated times/fields. She gave examples of hourly vs. seasonal vs. fee + per person. Mr. Core suggested there be one rate for summer and a different rate for Sept/early Oct. Mr. Murphy let them know that they have to treat people with respect. Mr. Mahalaha responded that they are getting waivers, insurance and permit, looking

to move this forward. Dan Shea from Medway youth Soccer offered to help with goals and move them appropriate size.

Mr. Murphy made a motion to charge \$500 for July-August and reassess when they have to move their field in September in Mr. D’Innocenzo seconded the motion. Approved in a unanimous vote 4-0.

9. Spring/Summer Fields – Update

Ms. Harrington reported that the spring fields are done and just about everyone has paid. They deposited \$106k in June. Mr. Pelletier mentioned that DPW ordered fertilizer for 15k. Ms. Harrington has all of the turf fields booked thru August. Mr. Shea said that MYS would be looking for about 7 ½ hours per week in the fall for turf due to the fact that they are adding teams for 7/8 grade division.

10. Field requests: High School Soccer Jamboree – 9/2, Jamaican Independence Day Celebration – 8/6 (VFW)

HS Soccer Jamboree – The group is looking to use the field for a one-day tournament for no charge, as in the past. They invite other town high school teams to participate.

Mr. D’Innocenzo made a motion for HS jamboree to use the field for no charge on 9/2, Mr. Core seconded the motion. Approved in a unanimous vote, 4-0.

Jamaican Independence Day Celebration on 8/6 – flyers have been sent out and the organizer has talked to the police about the event and met with Andrea at VFW about using the building. They plan to use the building and the field for the festival. They requested to use the field at no charge. The members want more information on what they plan on using the field for. Mr. Murphy offered to meet with Ms. Harrington and the organizers.

Mr. Murphy made a motion to charge \$2,000 to use the field, Mr. D’Innocenzo seconded the motion. Approved in a unanimous vote, 4-0.

11. Chair update

None

12. Director’s update

Ms. Harrington noted that the first concert is on 7/10, they are having a taco truck.

Ms. Pelletier mentioned that the contract for the Hanlon track re-design is going to Select board to get approved and go out to bid.

Motion to Adjourn: At 8:54 PM, Mr. D’Innocenzo offered a motion to adjourn. Mr. Murphy seconded this motion, which passed unanimously. VOTE: 4-0.

Next Meeting: Thursday July 27, 2023.

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