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TOWN OF MEDWAY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

PARKS COMMISSION

APPROVED 1/31/2024

Town of Medway
Board of Park Commissioners Meeting
November 29, 2023 – 6:30 PM
Sanford Hall – Medway

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

Absent:

Others: Julie Harrington, Director of Parks and Recreation
Jessica Earle, Medway Youth Softball
Jane Whitney Grandmaison, Medway Youth Softball
Peter Soule, Medway Youth Lacrosse
Sarah Hagen, Medway Youth Softball
Martin Dietrich

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

Public Comments: None

Other Business:

1. Approval of Minutes: October 25, 2023

Mr. Murphy made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from October 25, 2023. Ms. Rossi seconded the motion. Approved, vote 3-0-2.

2. Kwanzaa lighting at Choate Park – Discussion/Vote

Mr. Dietrich attended to discuss the event. The event team already has the lights. It will be Tues, Dec 26, and the event will be the same as last year. The event coordinators know how to turn on the lights. It is not necessary for DPW to be there. Ms. Rossi asked if they needed anything from the Parks Department. Mr. Murphy asked if they were worried about any protests. Mr. Dietrich does not feel there would be an issue.

Ms. Rossi made a motion to have the Kwanzaa lighting at Choate Park beginning around 4:00 on Dec 26. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

3. Spring Tournaments – Discussion/Vote

Mr. Soule felt that he had a solution. He usually has a 2-day event, so running a 1-day event is a loss of income. He put feelers out about having a 1-day tournament before Easter. Mr. Soule is now asking to run a 1-day tournament on March 30, Saturday (8:00am to 8:00pm) and asking to have the turf fees waived so that he can make up for some of the lost income from only having a 1-day event. This would enable NEFC to use the fields for both of the weekends they originally requested. Mr. Soule is hoping that this is a reasonable compromise. Ms. Rossi and Mr. Farrell are in favor of approving this. Ms. Soule will ask about whether players/coaches would agree to play on March 29, Good Friday. If so and it's a 2-day event, he would pay the in-town turf fees. The Scorpions are also asking for the fields. Ms. Harrington will ask Scorpions about Friday, March 29.

Ms. Rossi made a motion to approve Mr. Soule's organization to have a 1-day lacrosse tournament on Saturday, March 30 and waiving the field fees. Mr. D'Innocenzo seconded the motion. Approved 4-1.

Ms. Rossi made a motion for NEFC to run tournaments on March 15-17 and March 22-24 at the new field rates. Mr. D'Innocenzo seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

4. Girls Scouts – Dog Park Project

The group was not able to attend, will discuss it at a future meeting.

5. Field Fees – Medway Youth Softball

Ms. Whitney Grandmaison from Medway Youth Softball said that the league went back and looked at the numbers. They would almost be losing money with the increased fees. Their enrollment numbers are down, they are losing numbers as senior players are getting pulled up to JV. They are trying to increase enrollment and are seeing more younger players join. The original field fee increases were a significant percentage increase relative to some other sports. Mr. Core noted that the Center Street fields were upgraded, and other improvements were done. Ms. Whitney Grandmaison said that they could accept a 30% increase in fees without having to charge higher fees to participants. Mr. Farrell noted that he doesn't want to change the fee on the official fee sheet. Because this group provided their financials and proved their hardship, rates were re-negotiated.

Ms. Rossi made a motion to charge \$300 per field per season for Medway Youth Softball to use the 3 fields. Mr. D'Innocenzo seconded the motion with the stipulation that it be re-visited next year. Vote 5-0.

Northeast Longhorns Baseball– They use the high school field, but it is often without permission, and they do not pay without Ms. Harrington requesting multiple times. For next year, they are asking about pre-paying for the fields. Mr. Murphy suggested that a representative from the program come to a future meeting and explain what they are looking for, i.e. number of teams, players and days/times needed.

ACS Powderpuff fundraiser

American Cancer Society fundraiser. The event was the Sunday before Thanksgiving. They requested that the field fees be waived. The event already took place and no fees will be charged.

Ms. Harrington noted that there was a tournament Thanksgiving weekend with NEFC. IFA used the fields the week before that and FC Stars is having a tournament this weekend.

There are some groups asking about using the fields in the winter.

6. Field Fees – Updated Fees – Any last Discussion/vote

Ms. Rossi stated that the field fees are set and will be published as previously voted on. Mr. Murphy asked about Community Ed. Ms. Harrington noted that they will likely come to a future meeting.

7. Mini office for 158 Main Street – Discussion/Vote

Ms. Harrington is losing her office space at the Ide House and was given space at Medway Block. She is suggesting that they purchase a mobile office. The unit will not have storage, Ms. Harrington suggested that they can use Medway Block for storage. The mobile unit will be office space and would be set up in the back of the Ide House, enabling them to be nearby for summer programs.

Ms. Rossi is going to review the pricing and numbers and provide the details at the next meeting. She wants to discuss this with the Select Board as well and will try to get on the agenda for the Dec 18 meeting. The price is just under \$50,000 and it includes shipping, set up etc.

Mr. D’Innocenzo suggested that we do a cost analysis in the future to build another turf field to be rented out. Mr. Farrell suggested that the VFW would be a good location.

8. December meeting date

Ms. Rossi felt that we do not need a December meeting. If something comes up, she will schedule a meeting. The next meeting will be January 31, 2024

9. Chair update

None.

10. Director’s update

Ms. Harrington asked about the template of a letter notifying groups of the change in field rates. Ms. Rossi will send it around to members for final approval and then provide it to Ms. Harrington. Ms. Harrington asked for members to volunteer to be Light Fight judges. She said people should drive around on Wednesday, 12/6 to view the lights and submit votes by Friday, 12/8.

Mr. Farrell made a motion to adjourn at 7:56; Ms. Rossi seconded the motion. Approved in a unanimous vote, 5-0.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, January 31, 2024.

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