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TOWN OF MEDWAY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

PARKS COMMISSION

APPROVED 11/29/2023

Town of Medway
Board of Park Commissioners Meeting
October 25, 2023 – 6:30 PM
Medway Senior Center 76 Oakland Street

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

Absent: Lyle Core, John Farrell

Others: Julie Harrington, Director of Parks and Recreation
Rondi Chapman, Medway Youth Softball
Jessica Earle, Medway Youth Softball
Brett Fagan, Medway Youth Softball
Jane Whitney Grandmaison, Medway Youth Softball
Brian Andersen, Medway Youth Softball
Frank Farley, Medway Youth Softball
Peter Soule, Medway Youth Lacrosse
Sarah Hagen, Medway Youth Softball
Preston Gales, Medway Youth Softball

Call to Order: At 6:42PM, Ms. Rossi called the meeting to order.

Public Comments: None

Other Business:

1. Approval of Minutes: September 27, 2023

Mr. D’Innocenzo made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from September 27, 2023, with one correction. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion. Approved in a unanimous vote, 3-0.

2. Spring Tournaments – Discussion/Vote

Ms. Rossi talked to Matt from NEFC today and NEFC said that they wanted both weekends for their tournaments and could only be flexible on the Fridays before the weekends requested (March 15 and March 22). The Scorpions also reached out and wanted the fields for Easter weekend. Mr. Soule is disappointed that NEFC is not flexible, and that Medway Youth Lacrosse could potentially have to cancel an in-town tournament that they have been running for 10 years.

Mr. Murphy noted that it is NEFC's biggest tournament of the year. Mr. Soule said that he would consider paying the out-of-town rates for both weekends and run 2 tournaments, one for boys and another for girls. He feels that this is outrageous. Ms. Rossi would like to offer NEFC one of the weekends knowing that there is a risk that they will pull the other tournament and see what they say. She would offer the other weekend to Mr. Soule. There are only 3 members present at the meeting, she suggested they wait until all members are present. Mr. Murphy feels that we should give both weekends to NEFC due to the financial shortfall. Mr. Soule suggested that Parks & Rec members go back to the town and let them know that it is difficult to service the community if they are having to cover the expenses of the fields and/or make money.

Ms. Rossi made a motion to offer NEFC one weekend and give Mr. Soule the other weekend. The motion did not get seconded. Further discussion to be postponed until all members are available.

Scorpions asking for Easter weekend, Fri-Sun, March 29-31. Mr. Soule will check with his group to see if those dates could work for their tournament. Members will hold off on responding to Scorpions until they hear back.

3. Softball Field Fees – Discussion/Vote

Softball representatives came to the meeting to discuss the proposed increase in field fees. They were not at the meetings where field fees were discussed. Ms. Chapman noted that their spring enrollment numbers are ok (about 100), but summer (30) and fall (32) are low. They cannot afford the proposed increases in field fees. They could combine to rent with another town or have multiple teams use one field in the fall. They cannot afford the new fees so would likely cut back use of fields and then there would be less income for the town. Another option is to not have summer and fall seasons. If the fields aren't used in summer and fall, there would be more maintenance for the spring. Mr. Gales noted that that some towns don't charge for softball. Their current per person fees are approximately \$29 but would be \$76 to cover these increased fees. Ms. Rossi said that she would consider a lower fee for the summer and fall seasons. Mr. Gales noted that the softball fields seem to be getting less maintenance than others. Ms. Chapman provided a spreadsheet with the impact of increased fees as well as a few suggested options with less of an increase.

Mr. Murphy noted that for consistency we would not change the per player fee. He proposed \$1000/per field for the spring and \$500 for all 3 fields for the fall and \$500 for all 3 fields in the summer, \$4,000 total for the year. He noted that he wanted to wait to vote until all members are present. Ms. Grandmaison noted that they could use the extra time to run the numbers and make sure that they are workable. Ms. Chapman noted that this would change the per player fee to \$40. Mr. Andersen mentioned that they were grateful and would look to make up some of the difference with fundraising. Ms. Chapman asked Ms. Harrington about promoting softball in the spring Parks & Rec brochure. Ms. Harrington said that she will see if there is space.

4. Field Fees – Updated Fees – Any last discussion/vote

Ms. Rossi passed around a sample email to send to groups notifying them of the new fees. She asked members to provide suggested edits.

5. 9v9 Lines on Lamson Field – Update

Ms. Harrington will need to discuss at the next meeting. Mike got back to them today and the drawing was not clear, so they asked for more information.

6. Medway Citizens for a pool – Update on meeting

Ms. Rossi met with Steve & Rick from Medway Citizens for a pool. She discussed the possibility of a hybrid model for managing and funding the project. She noted that there will be an issue with finding the appropriate land. Ms. Rossi noted that it is good to have other people interested in promoting the idea.

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

Ms. Rossi noted that the Ide House needs serious repairs. The building inspector has recommended that using the building should be limited until repairs are made. Ms. Harrington's office is currently in the building. Ms. Harrington feels that she should be near or in Choate. All of their camps are run near there. Ms. Harrington sent members an email with some sample trailers that are under \$50,000. Other suggestions from Mr. Boynton are the to use the snack shack or space at DPW. Mr. Murphy suggested that we ask to get on the agenda for the next Select Board meeting to discuss getting a new temporary office for Ms. Harrington and her team.

8. Pumpkin Walk – October 27 – help wanted

Friday night, 10/27, 7:00-9:00. Ms. Harrington needs people to volunteer starting at 6:00 or 6:30. The Farm is going to sell refreshments and staff it. There are different shifts. If it's nice out, people will stay longer, could be a traffic/parking issue.

9. Chair update

First Quarter report from Carol, is projecting a loss. This is mainly due to the timing of the collection of funds.

10. Director's update

None.

Mr. D'Innocenzo made a motion to adjourn at 8:29, Ms. Rossi seconded the motion. Approved in a unanimous vote, 3-0.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, November 29, 2023

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