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TOWN OF MEDWAY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

PARKS COMMISSION

APPROVED 6/29/2022

Town of Medway
Board of Park Commissioners Meeting
June 1, 2022 – 6:30 PM
Medway Senior Center

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

Absent: None

Others: Julie Harrington, Pete Pelletier, Susan Dietrich, Tina Wright

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

Public Comments: There were none at this time.

Other Business: There was no other business at this time.

1. Approval of Minutes: April 27, 2022

This item was not addressed at this meeting.

2. Peace Garden Update

Ms. Wright was present to address this matter. Ms. Rossi and Ms. Wright discussed the design options and the funding status of the project. Ms. Rossi suggested proposing the existing plan to the families in question; the commissioners all agreed with this approach.

VOTE: Ms. Rossi offered a motion to modify the Select Board proposal to include both sides of the mural. Mr. Farrell seconded this motion, which passed unanimously. VOTE: 5-0.

Ms. Rossi suggested adding clarifying information to the peace garden to make the area’s purpose clearer.

Ms. Wright shared that the dedication for the peace garden will be on June 13, 2022 at 6:30PM. The rain date is June 24, 2022.

3. Trash at Choate/Oakland

The commissioners discussed using signs to deter people from littering in Medway's public spaces. They suggested June as an appropriate time to remove the trash cans in order to prevent buildup of trash.

4. High School Parking

Ms. Rossi shared that she feels the sign outside of the high school is working well. The commissioners discussed the potential for ticketing if people do not adhere to the guidelines.

5. Advertising

Ms. Rossi shared that she has shared the appropriate materials with Ms. Potter, but still needs to meet with Mr. Boynton.

Ms. Rossi discussed using signs and the scoreboards for advertising purposes.

Mr. Murphy raised the potential for an advertisement to be painted onto a field.

Mr. Murphy agreed to take the lead on getting further advertising information.

6. Cricket Update

Mr. Patel was present to address this matter. He shared that he will be meeting with Ms. Graziano from the Conservation Commission on Wednesday, June 8, 2022 at 2:30PM. They will be doing a site visit to ensure that the property in question is appropriate for a cricket field and in accordance with conservation guidelines.

Ms. Rossi noted that the next step will be with the legal team.

Ms. Rossi suggested charging the cricket team a bulk rate for the season, as they will be occupying the space for 12 hours over the course of 2 days. She advocated for one flat rate in order to be most streamlined and efficient.

VOTE: Mr. Murphy offered a motion to charge the cricket team a \$1,500 fixed fee beginning in year 2. Ms. Rossi seconded this motion, which passed unanimously. VOTE: 5-0.

In terms of this year, Ms. Rossi reiterated that she will assist the team as they become established and help facilitate the completion of the process.

7. Permitting/Fees for the pavilions at Choate and Oakland

The commissioners discussed adding specific language about timeframes and populations of events at the pavilions at Choate and Oakland.

Mr. Murphy suggested a refundable deposit that is dependent on people's appropriate usage of the space.

Ms. Rossi suggested signage that denotes the overall schedule in order to avoid overlapping bookings.

Mr. Farrell suggested that the commission look into creating an internship so that an intern could supervise the aforementioned protocol.

Ms. Harrington raised the issue of having insurance, as it is technically a rental of town property.

8. Updated field policy and procedures due to heat

Ms. Harrington shared that the turf fields close when it is too hot. However, there is no language in the existing policies about this. However, Ms. Rossi found existing language in the field policy and procedures that encompassed "inclement weather," which includes heat.

9. Summer Fields 2022

Ms. Harrington reviewed the existing schedule for the summer fields and shared plans for clinics, tournaments, and other usages.

The commissioners reviewed potential conflicts and analyzed the efficacy of the existing configurations.

VOTE: Ms. Rossi offered a motion to approve the existing schedule. Mr. Farrell seconded this motion, which passed unanimously. VOTE: 5-0.

10. Events/classes approval for parks

Ms. Harrington reviewed a few requests for events at Medway's parks; these included a regatta and a 5K; Ms. Rossi suggested blocking off time to allow for these events to take place smoothly.

Ms. Harrington also noted September 24, 2022 as a potential date for a band competition.

VOTE: Ms. Rossi offered a motion to approve the aforementioned events. Mr. Murphy seconded this motion, which passed unanimously. VOTE: 5-0.

11.Spring fields update

Ms. Harrington shared that the goal is for everyone to have paid their spring fields dues by June 3, 2022.

Ms. Harrington also shared that some teams have relayed concerns about the conditions of the VFW fields.

VOTE: Ms. Rossi offered a motion to decrease the charge from \$100 to \$50 weekly for renting the VFW fields. Mr. D’Innocenzo seconded this motion, which passed unanimously. VOTE: 5-0.

Ms. Harrington noted that there will be a free fishing derby from 7-10AM on Saturday, June 4, 2022 at Choate Park. She encouraged commissioners’ attendance.

12.Chair update

Ms. Rossi noted that it will soon be time to appoint a new chair or reelect her as chair. No other commissioners expressed interest in the role. She agreed to continue in this capacity, but suggested identifying assignments within the Board. Mr. Murphy agreed to take the lead on advertising and Mr. Core agreed to take the lead on cricket. Mr. Farrell agreed to take the lead on the high school baseball field. Mr. D’Innocenzo agreed to take the lead on the VFW; he noted collaborating with the Master Plan Committee as a potential avenue towards making progress on this property.

13.Director update

Ms. Harrington noted that there is a recreational pickleball program on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from approximately 6-8PM. She noted that there are often as many as 4 courts reserved with groups as large as 30 on Thursdays. She shared that there are often conflicts among groups regarding space usage; she noted that there are existing signs that address this issue but suggested that Parks commissioners stop by whenever possible to assist with this.

Mr. Pelletier shared that he had to replace a number of pumps and equipment due to weather and animal damage. He noted that the replacements will come from the Parks budget.

Motion to Adjourn: At 9:22, Mr. Farrell offered a motion to adjourn. Ms. Rossi seconded this motion, which passed unanimously. VOTE: 5-0.

Future Park Meeting Date: June 29, 2022

Respectfully submitted by,
Amelia McLaughlin, Recording Secretary