



Medway Town Hall
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TOWN OF MEDWAY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

PARKS COMMISSION

APPROVED 2/28/2024

Town of Medway
Board of Park Commissioners Meeting
January 31, 2024 – 6:30 PM
Sanford Hall – Medway Town Hall

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

Absent:

Others: Julie Harrington Director of Parks & Recreation
Peter Soule
Andrea Moores
Cyndy Ellis
Karen Niemczyk
Matt Anderson
Dan Shea
Jason Boucher
Terry Lehane
John Cloutier

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

Public Comments: None

Other Business:

1. Approval of Minutes: November 29, 2023

Mr. D’Innocenzo noted that the vote to approve the October 23 minutes was shown as unanimous, however the vote was 3-0-2 as 2 members abstained. Mr. Farrell made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from November 29, 2023 with the correction. Mr. Core seconded the motion. Approved, vote 5-0.

2. Pride Flags/event, June 2024 at Choate Park – Discussion/Vote

Cyndy Ellis and Andrea Moores summarized last year’s event. They are looking to have their event on Friday, May 31, 2024, as Pride month is all of June. The rain date would be June 8. DPW must work overtime since it’s late on a Friday. The heart of the event is watching the flags

go up. They would like it to begin at 6:00 with flag raising and head to the or pavilion until 8:15-8:30. They will have some entertainment and some speeches from HS TADA/GSA. David Blackwell is a resident and part of a Pride pep band and will perform. Ms. Rossi asked about how many people they are expecting. Ms. Moores expects 100-200 residents and some from surrounding towns too. Ms. Rossi asked them to reach out to the police chief to see if they need detail or traffic control. They will email Mr. Pelletier about the staff. Ms. Ellis noted that they secured a grant for new flags from the Medway Cultural Council. The new flags represent the most updated flags and more heavy-duty. Ms. Moores asked about donating the old flags. Ms. Harrington suggested that they ask Allison Potter. They would like to have TC scoops come to the event.

Ms. Rossi made a motion to have the Pride Flag event at Choate Park beginning around 5:30-6:00 until 8:15 on May 31, 2024. Mr. Innocenzo seconded the motion. Approved, vote 5-0.

3. Community Education Summer 24 Field Request/Fees – Discussion/Vote

Ms. Niemczyk from the school department and provided a sample schedule for their summer programs. Ms. Harrington confirmed that the Hanlon field will be offline. Ms. Niemczyk asked if they could use North and Ms. Harrington said she would look into it. On average, they get up to 100 each week, less over the shortened 4th of July week. Fees are \$275/week. Ms. Harrington noted that there are some weeks that the turf won't be available. Ms. Rossi let her know that the field fees have increased. They are using several fields, mostly the one near Kelly Street and/or near the track. Last year they were charged a flat fee of \$7,500 plus \$6 pp. Ms. Rossi noted that the Middle School is offline now, Ms. Harrington noted that she thinks it'll be ready by summer. Speed & Strength might have to be moved inside a few of the weeks. They are not going to have a Track & Field session this summer. Mr. Murphy is proposing keeping the \$6 per person rate the same and increasing the flat fee to \$12,500. Ms. Niemczyk noted that any profit they make goes to the free academic program offered to 400 students the week prior to the start of school. Ms. Ross proposed a flat fee of \$10,500.

Ms. Rossi made a motion to approve Community Education Summer programs and charge a flat fee of \$10,500 plus a \$6 per person charge. No one seconded this motion. Mr. Murphy made a motion to charge a flat fee of \$12,500 and a per person fee of \$6. Mr. Farrell seconded the motion. Vote: 2-3, did not pass. Ms. Rossi made a motion to charge \$11,500 for a flat fee plus \$6 per person, Mr. D'Innocenzo seconded the motion. Approved, vote: 3-2.

4. Northeast Longhorns Field Rate: Discussion/Vote

Matt Anderson from Northeast Longhorns presented proposed schedule to use the baseball field in the spring summer for practices and games. In the past, practice times had not been provided and/or communicated. They are willing to pay upfront for the use of the fields. This is a club baseball team. Ms. Harrington looked at the schedule and mentioned that 6/2 is graduation. There could also be a conflict on Sundays with the HS team. Mr. Anderson noted that they could use a different field, maybe the MS. Ms. Rossi noted that it will be based on the new rate. Ms. Rossi suggested it might be an hourly rate, in the past it was \$100 per player. There are either 14 or 27 players per practice, sometimes one team, sometimes two. Ms. Harrington suggested that she prefers a per player fee or a flat fee rather than an hourly.

Mr. Farrell made a motion to charge The Northeast Longhorns \$150 per player to use the HS baseball fields. Mr. D’Innocenzo seconded the motion. Approved, vote: 5-0.

5. Spartans Summer 24 Field Rate: Discussion/Vote

Terry Lehane from Spartans soccer attended the meeting to request fields for a high school summer league, 40 teams from July 8 to Aug 18. They also use Hillside in Marlborough and St. Johns. In the past, they were charged per game, \$100. Ms. Harrington mentioned that she usually fits in the Spartans around other programs. These are night games, 6:00-10:00. Ms. Harrington noted that both fields are available from 7:00-10:00pm. Last year they paid \$6,600, approx. 66 games (they were not charged for Medway teams). Ms. Rossi suggested \$125 per game, Mr. Farrell proposed \$150 to be consistent with other increases.

Ms. Rossi made a motion to charge Spartans Soccer \$125/game. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion. Approved, vote 5-0.

6. RBI Summer 24 Field Rate: Discussion/Vote

Ms. Harrington reports that she received an email from RBI baseball. They are looking to use the 3 fields at Cassidy on June 19-21 for a clinic from 9:00-12:00 on Wed, Thurs, Fri. Mr. Farrell noted there were 30 Medway kids who attended the camp last year. Last year, they paid \$1,500 for the 3 days.

Ms. Rossi made a motion to charge RBI \$1,800 for the 3 fields for 3 days, 3 hrs. per day. Mr. D’Innocenzo seconded the motion. Approved, vote 5-0.

7. Food Trucks for Lacrosse Jamboree: Discussion/Vote

Pete Soule from Medway Lacrosse is looking to bring in food trucks for their spring tournament. He asked to confirm the process of using the Medway Boosters Snack Shack and whether food trucks could be hired. Ms. Harrington will reach out to Tiffany from Medway Boosters. Ms. Rossi proposes that if the snack shack is not willing to be open the whole day, then Mr. Soule should be able to hire food trucks. Food trucks need a permit through the town and Board of Health.

Ms. Rossi made a motion that if Medway HS Boosters agree to open their snack stand for the whole tournament, Mr. Soule and youth Lacrosse must use them. If not. They can hire food trucks. Mr. Farrell seconded the motion. Approved, vote 5-0.

8. Prep for Finance Committee Meeting

Ms. Rossi noted that the Finance Committee asked Parks to come to their February meeting. Then they postponed because the Finance Committee didn’t have a budget yet. Ms. Rossi noted that the lost income from the HS using Hanlon field will be \$8,000. The meeting is now expected to be in March.

9. Spring/Summer Field schedules

Ms. Harrington presented a tentative schedule for spring and summer. She is expecting to get the spring season in while Hanlon is still online and hoping they can begin the work right after graduation.

Ms. Rossi noted that the MS schedule looks ok. Ms. Harrington noted that they are trying to use Charland as little as possible. Mr. Core discussed the need to finalize re-doing lines at Lamson.

Ms. Rossi made a motion to accept the MS spring 2024 as presented. Mr. Farrell seconded the motion. Approved, vote 5-0.

The March schedule has a lot of tournaments, all were previously approved. Ms. Harrington will let Tiffany at Medway Boosters know about tournaments to see if they want to open snack stand.

Ms. Harrington pointed out that on all Mondays in April & May, there are not enough fields due to Hanlon being down. Medway Soccer offered to not use Mondays. Due to high school games, there are some nights they can't get on some fields until 7:00. Ms. Rossi noted that there are openings on Fridays.

Ms. Harrington asked Medway Lacrosse to move their Tues-Thurs request from 6:00-7:30 to 7:30-9:00. Mr. Boucher agreed. Medway Lacrosse also agreed to take Friday night time slots, so NEFC can take a Tuesday evening slot.

Ms. Harrington noted that after she sets a schedule, she is usually able to fill empty spots with last minute requests from various club teams.

Graduation weekend, Hanlon unavailable Thursday-Sunday. May 30-June 2.

In July, Coyotes will have a camp on grass, Nike will have a camp too. Goldstar will have a daytime mini clinic in July too.

Ms. Rossi noted that it's a fair schedule, giving everyone most of their requested times. Ms. Harrington responded that many groups were able to be flexible.

Ms. Rossi made a motion to approve the tentative draft field schedules as presented. Mr. D'Innocenzo seconded the motion. Approved, vote 5-0.

10.

10. Chair update

None.

11. Director's update

Ms. Harrington noted that Mr. Pelletier asked about putting power at the baseball fields for a pitching machine in the batting cages and asked whether we are planning to re-do the scoreboard at Hanlon. This will be added as a future agenda item.

Ms. Harrington also wants to add the dog policy at Choate for a future agenda item. Summer camp registration opens on Monday, Feb 5.

We are waiting to hear back from Conservation about the location of storage units.

Ms. Harrington going to Denver March 1-7 for Director school.

**Mr. Core made a motion to adjourn at 8:55; Ms. Rossi seconded the motion.
Approved, vote: 5-0.**

Next Meeting:

February 28, 2024

March 27, 2024

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