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# TOWN OF MEDWAY

## COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

### PARKS COMMISSION

**APPROVED 3/23/2022**

Town of Medway  
Board of Park Commissioners Meeting  
March 2, 2022 – 6:30 PM  
Medway Senior Center

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

**Absent:**

**Others:** Julie Harrington, Peter Pelletier, Michael Boynton, Glenn Trindade, Susan Dietrich, and Dennis Crowley

Ms. Rossi called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM

#### **Public Comment**

No public comments outside of agenda items.

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

**Other Business:** Ms. Rossi shared that Ms. Langley hopes to do a tri-board meeting of the Board of Parks, the Select Board, and the School Committee. Ms. Dietrich voiced that she did not feel this would be necessary, per her conversations with Mr. Boynton.

**Agenda Item #1** - Approval of Minutes: February 9, 2022

**VOTE:** Mr. Murphy offered a motion to approve the 2/9/22 minutes as amended. Mr. Farrell seconded this motion, This motion passed unanimously, with Ms. Rossi abstaining, due to her absence at the 2/9/22 meeting.

## **Agenda Item #2 – SLA**

Ms. Rossi asked the commissioners and present community members to share major takeaways from their February 9, 2022 meeting.

Ms. Dietrich shared that the intent for the existing SLA is for all involved boards to review it, then report back to Mr. Boynton and Superintendent Pires with any desired modifications.

Mr. Boynton shared that the document needs updating, as there have been many changes since its last writing in 2016. He agreed that all 3 involved committees must agree on it in its entirety. He shared that he and Dr. Pires reviewed field rental, building rental, community recreation, policy, and procedures. He noted that he and Dr. Pires have settled on a reasonable agreement that reflects the best interests of the town. He stated that if any of the boards disagree, they will modify it accordingly.

Ms. Rossi noted scheduling of fields as a particular issue of note; she wished to see a modified schedule that reflects an in-town rental rate for changes to the agreed-upon schedule, not including rain. She also stated that free usage of fields for Community Ed is not equitable. She noted that there is a fee for program attendance, which is counterintuitive to the lack of payment from the program for field access. She also cited the board's difficulty accessing school building facilities, despite the board's flexibility with the schools; she wished to see more of a reciprocal relationship. Mr. Boynton agreed, wishing to see a "quid pro quo" relationship with equal usage of facilities. Ms. Rossi suggested teaming up with town basketball and coordinating it through the Board of Parks; Mr. Boynton felt this would not go well. Ms. Rossi agreed that it would not be received well, but that this is, in essence, the root of her qualms with the existing agreement. Mr. Core asked Ms. Harrington if she would use the school facilities more often, such as the gym, if she knew she had unlimited access; she noted that they tend to be booked by other groups, so she does not typically attempt to, but hypothetically would. Mr. Boynton cautioned both Boards against an "us versus them" mentality; he noted that all groups jointly contribute to the town's success.

Mr. Murphy noted concerns with the Community Ed's history with payment and communication. He noted that the Board consistently gave the program a 50% discount, but then received no payment and often experienced disrespectful treatment.

Ms. Dietrich inquired as to what percentage the \$6,000 from Community Ed constitutes of the Board's total accrual. Although the Board did not have the specifics at the moment, Ms. Rossi clarified that regardless of specific numbers, the Board must generate revenue for their budget, particularly given COVID's impact. She also noted maintenance as a particularly significant expense.

Mr. Murphy noted that access for the MABA program to the basketball courts is \$50,000. He inquired as to where that money goes and felt this was an inordinately high charge.

Mr. Boynton agreed with the Board's assessment of the revenue issue and noted that modifications are likely necessary to the existing agreement.

Ms. Rossi also addressed the issue of signage and athletic equipment. Mr. Boynton and Ms. Dietrich noted that all signage on school grounds, including scoreboards, are technically under the jurisdiction of the School Committee. Ms. Rossi felt that the Board of Parks should have autonomy of this and wished to see more advertising on the scoreboards in order to cover the Board's field-related costs.

Mr. Crowley inquired about the Charles River Bank's offer to advertise on the fields; he inquired

whose jurisdiction that is under. Ms. Dietrich noted that it would have to go through the advertising policy of the schools, since it is on school grounds. It would therefore need to be approved by Dr. Pires. She noted that as long as the information on the advertising in question is appropriate, getting it approved should not be an issue. She noted that the existing agreement for this is only one page long and therefore very accessible and streamlined.

Mr. Trindade inquired as to why there is such a significant amount of administrative overhead; Ms. Dietrich clarified that it is a very easy process. Mr. Trindade still felt this was an excessive level of steps in the process. Mr. Boynton agreed, sharing that reducing and simplifying the process is a realistic solution that could also help bring all involved groups together.

Mr. D’Innocenzo arrived at 7:08PM.

Ms. Dietrich suggested the Board of Parks create their own policy that does not conflict with the existing School Committee policy. She noted that as long as the School Committee is comfortable with it, then all advertising decisions would no longer need to go through the School Committee. Mr. Boynton suggested adding language with each advertising approval to denote the existing policies at the time of the agreement. Mr. Trindade voiced his approval of Ms. Dietrich’s idea and encouraged the Board of Parks to accept this offer and get started on acquiring a scoreboard as soon as possible, especially for Hanlon Field.

Ms. Dietrich suggested establishing a relationship between the Board of Parks and the School Committee Policy Subcommittee in order to elicit streamlined communication in the present and future. Mr. Boynton agreed, suggesting meeting at least once annually.

Mr. Boynton suggested that the Board of Parks be allowed a \$10,000 discount either in the form of access to school facilities, a MABA discount, or other redeemable actions, in exchange for their discount to Community Ed. Ms. Rossi stated that she did not like this approach and would rather simply keep the agreement as it currently is. Mr. Boynton shared that he would make some modifications to the existing agreement and would report back to all committees involved next week. Ms. Dietrich noted that Superintendent Pires must be present for the deliberations of the next draft.

### **Agenda Item #3 – High School Baseball Field**

Mr. Farrell noted that the current bullpen is not usable, due in part to rubber damage and weather exposure. He also noted the need for improvements to the left field line fence that protects entering fans. He also hoped to add stands, so that fans have improved seating. Mr. Pelletier noted that he is looking into price estimates for the aforementioned. Mr. Farrell shared that it will likely be less than \$1,000 for a new bullpen.

Mr. Boynton noted that Community Preservation Committee funds cannot be used for maintenance of the baseball field, but can be used for the creation of new facilities. Mr. Boynton noted that funds will likely be limited for the back baseball field, as much of the town’s funds are going towards jobs such as school roof replacements.

Mr. Crowley asked if the groups can move forward with turfing the baseball field and soccer fields. He suggested utilizing Community Preservation Committee and Open Space Committee resources to accomplish this.

Ms. Rossi noted the potential for increased revenue through tournaments by turfing these fields, as that is a preferable material to most teams. Mr. Crowley suggested that the Board look into this as soon as possible to begin generating this revenue. The Board also noted that the track area should be redone by 2025, ideally by 2024.

Mr. Boynton and Mr. Trindade both suggested seeking the advice of an engineer regarding turfing the areas in question. Lastly, Mr. Trindade and Mr. Crowley noted Idlebrook as a particular area of interest for this project.

#### **Agenda Item #4 – Five Year Facility Plan**

Ms. Rossi suggested that all relevant committees regroup in the near future to make a five-year plan. This agenda item was not addressed further.

#### **Agenda Item #5 – Spring Fields Update**

Ms. Harrington shared that she has added two new tournaments to the spring calendar. She also noted that the DPW has already cleared all snow off the fields, so they are now accessible. Mr. Farrell shared that the Medway Boosters are hoping to do an alumni home run derby; Ms. Harrington asked him to send concrete dates to her for her consideration.

#### **Agenda Item #8 – Chair Update**

Ms. Rossi had no updates at this time.

#### **Agenda Item #9 - Director Update**

Ms. Harrington had no updates at this time.

**Motion to Adjourn: At 8:47PM, Mr. Farrell offered a motion to adjourn. Ms. Rossi seconded this motion, Ms. Rossi seconded this motion, which passed unanimously. VOTE: 5-0.**

**Meeting Adjourned: 8:47pm**

**Next meeting: Wednesday, March 23, 2022**

Respectfully submitted by,  
Amelia McLaughlin, Recording Secretary