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TOWN OF MEDWAY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

PARKS COMMISSION

APPROVED 8/30/2023

Town of Medway
Board of Park Commissioners Meeting
July 27, 2023 – 6:30 PM
Sanford Hall, Medway Town Hall

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

Absent: None

Others: Julie Harrington, Director of Parks and Recreation
Dan Shea, Medway Youth Soccer

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

Public Comments: Ms. Rossi said thank you to Julie Harrington for organizing the concert series, this week was very successful.

Other Business:

1. Approval of Minutes: May 31 and June 28, 2023 – Mr. D’Innocenzo made motion to approve 5/31/23 minutes with edits. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion, approved in a 3-0-

1. Mr. Murphy made a motion to approve the minutes from the 6/28/23 meeting. Mr. D’Innocenzo seconded the motion. Approved in a unanimous vote.

2. Status on Sign & advertising policies

Ms. Rossi asked whether members saw the notes from Legal on the sign policies. She thinks they are saying that the language about personal signs should be excluded. They feel that if any personal messages are allowed, it opens it up to having to allow any/all personal messages. Legal suggests that language on private signs be removed from the policy. Legal re-wrote some language at the beginning which members agreed with. Legal also suggested that specific parks not be listed in case new ones are added. Both policies (signs and advertising) are in sync.

Mr. Murphy made a motion to approve the Parks & Recreation sign and advertising policies removing section on private signs. Mr. D’Innocenzo seconded the motion. Approved in unanimous vote.

3. Allergy sign for parks/follow up from BOH Meeting

Ms. Rossi asked Patricia Sampson to share her experience at Medway Day. Patricia Sampson said it was great, they received good feedback from families who were very appreciative of their efforts. People felt comforted that they were creating awareness. Nothing but good feedback about putting up signs. Ms. Sampson was proud of her friends and the community for coming together.

Mr. Pelletier is on vacation and hasn't yet provided the quote for the signs. Ms. Rossi suggests getting approval for a specific amount.

Mr. Murphy made a motion to purchase the first 12 allergy awareness signs at no more than \$50 each. The signs will be placed at selected parks & playgrounds. Mr. D'Innocenzo seconded the motion. Approved in a unanimous vote.

4. Field fee rates – Set date to discuss in spring 24

Ms. Rossi wants to schedule one meeting date in September 9/27 to set rates for 2024, the only items on the agenda will be fees and budget. Fall rates will remain the same.

5. Jamaican Independence Day Celebration – 8/6 (VFW)

Tafari Hewitt attended the meeting to discuss the event and charges. He is now questioning the contract with VFW being different than their original discussion. He paid for the building and thought it included the field and is now told that field is not included, and he has to talk to the Parks Department. They were charging \$2,320: \$1,150 for building, \$670 for pavilion and \$500 for the kitchen. He doesn't want to use the building/main hall, he only needs the field and pavilion. He wasn't originally going to use the kitchen, but now he is thinking it would be better than portable grills etc. They are going to have a stage on the field and have musicians perform from about noon-10:00 pm and also plan on having an informal soccer tournament at 7:00 am. Mr. Hewitt will bring food and charge for it. He is all set with Derrick at the Health Dept and has insurance for additional parking, if needed. Mr. D'Innocenzo said we will need to arrange for additional trash barrels to be there. Mr. Hewitt plans to rent portable toilets, not use the building bathrooms. Mr. Murphy suggested that he keeps the price the same as they were charging for the building, \$1,150 to be paid to Rec. Department for using the field and they take the amount out of the VFW contract. Mr. Core suggested asking Allison Potter to help clarify. Ms. Rossi offered to call Ms. Potter to explain and ask for her assistance in resolving this.

Mr. Murphy made a motion to charge the Jamaican festival \$1,150 for use of the VFW field from 7:00am to 10:00pm on 8/6, including the use of lights, and providing trash barrels. Mr. D'Innocenzo seconded the motion. Approved in a unanimous vote.

6. Summer Fields: Update

Ms. Harrington noted that Spartans want to talk about field rates again. For the past few seasons, they've been charged \$100/per game and that's all they budgeted for. The current rate is \$100/hour and their games are 90 minutes. They told Ms. Harrington they were going to pull their games if the rate increases.

Mr. D'Innocenzo made a motion to keep rate at \$100/game for this summer only for Spartans, Mr. Core seconded the motion. Approved in a unanimous vote.

7. Fall Fields: Discussion/Approval

Ms. Harrington noted that youth football starts next week. They need 5 days/week in August and then 3 days/week in the fall. Ms. Rossi is ok to keep the current rate but wants to give them a heads up that the rates are changing for next year.

Ms. Harrington still needs Medway Youth Soccer schedule before she starts assigning field for the fall. She has requests from club teams already as well.

Mr. Core brought up whether we should look to rent lights for the fall for the back fields.

Ms. Rossi made motion use of fields at same rates Medway/Millis youth football, 5 days/week in August, Mr. D’Innocenzo seconded the motion. Approved in a unanimous vote.

8. Park events: Boy Scouts fall events

Ms. Harrington listed the requests from the Boy Scouts for the fall:

- Join Scouting Day on 9/9, 9:00-1:00 Choate
- Lion Day at Choate, 9/14, 5-7
- Map and Compass day Sept 23, using the trails at Idylbrook
- Rocket Day at Idlebrook 11/11, must make sure no one else is on the fields – Ms. Harrington and Mr. Core said that day won’t work due to soccer so will need to push it back by one week to 11/18. 8:00am to 1:00pm
- Winter Walk day, side of Idylbrook parking lot 12/15

Ms. Rossi suggested that we ask if someone wants to do an Eagle Scout project for Parks & Recreation.

Ms. Rossi Made a motion to approve Boy Scout events with no charge with the date change for Rocket Day, Mr. D’Innocenzo seconded the motion. Approved in a unanimous vote.

9. Field Requests:

These were addressed in prior agenda items.

10. Chair Update

Ms. Rossi distributed a summary of field fees that will be discussed in September. She asked board members to let her know if they want her to provide any further details on any specific items prior to the meeting.

MA legislators have it on their docket to discuss turf fields and perhaps prohibit some types of turf fields. Also, they are proposing that existing turf fields cannot be replaced until they are at the end of their useful life.

11. Director update

None

Mr. Murphy Made a motion to adjourn at 8:26, Mr. D’Innocenzo seconded the motion. Approved in a unanimous vote.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 30, 2023.

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