

Dover Parks and Recreation Commission
Meeting of September 3, 2008
Minutes

P&R Commissioners In Attendance: John Budd, Barry Cullen, Peter Davies, Rich Oasis, Nancy Simms
P&R Employees In Attendance: David MacTavish, Jessica Cooney
Others In Attendance: None

August Meeting Minutes

Minutes from P&R Commission Meeting held on August 6, 2008 were approved as amended.

Caryl Park

We are waiting for estimates to be submitted by Camp Dresser McGee for Phase One and Phase Two. Estimates will be one for each phase as well as one for combining the two phases. Phase One involves configuring the existing Caryl Park fields. Phase Two consists of adding a new soccer/lacrosse field behind the tot lot and the compost field and creating a new access road and parking.

Safety concerns motivated P&R to eliminate the eastern driveway at Caryl Park. A few additional parking spaces will be marked off where this entrance used to be. Visibility from the remaining, western Driveway was improved by clearing and cutting back some of the undergrowth at the top of the rise just east of the Park. Additional safety conversations among P&R, Dover Police and Highway Departments, and the Board of Selectmen have included the possibility of putting in solar-powered flashing lights at the two Caryl Park crosswalks.

Field Usage Demand

Private sports groups in town (boys and girls lacrosse and soccer) are being charged usage fees for the upper fields and the lower practice fields at the high school. Town-run sports teams will not be charged.

Dover Days Fair – Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to sell tickets for the rides. We will sell tickets at the table plus have someone walking around with them. Each ride will require one ticket. A flat price of \$2 per ticket was agreed upon. P&R is responsible for collecting tickets at rides. There will be five rides, therefore we need at least five people in addition to ticket sellers. Jess will contact DSHS to offer community service hours to students who help out. Volunteers are needed from 9 to 4. Jess will put together schedule for volunteers. Officer Maio is planning to shut off streets as needed. There will be a Barbeque and Square Dance afterwards.

Currently, there are 31 vendors registered to come; we may get more as we get closer to the event. Last year we had 25 vendors. Vendors need to bring their own towels in case of rain. We need to supply power for a few vendors either from generators or electric hook up to town buildings using extension cords. The American Legion supplies an extension cord for the booth in front of their building.

There are six people registered for the 5K Pumpkin Run. Last year we had 60 runners on race day although there were only 15 who had signed up by the day prior to the race. This year we are charging \$15 fee.

Community Center – Wants and Needs

As requested by the Dover Community Center Building Committee (DCCBC), a discussion was held to identify the future P&R wants and needs to be considered in designing the new Community Center. Items mentioned were:

- Wrestling program: Need appropriate sized room and storage space for the mat;
- Adult Basketball League: Current Group pays a gym fee to Chickering;

- Adult Volley Ball: Need ceiling clearance which current gym does not have;
- AAU Basketball Tournaments: U12 and younger use crosswise courts, so you could have two simultaneous games;
- Summer playground: Indoor gym space on rainy days would be great;
- Lacrosse demand: Teams need indoor space for early season practices until the fields are dry enough for them to move outside; and
- Peter Sylvester's Pre-K programs: Need more indoor space so he can offer more programs. The demand is there already.

It was noted that having the P&R offices near the gym and some of the rooms would help keep an eye on the users and be a deterrent to unacceptable behavior. Separate access to the gym would be good so that COA programs aren't disrupted by gym traffic. Classrooms used by COA or any group would need a buffer from the noise and ruckus of gym activities.

Wellesley just built a new gym and it is fully booked. It would be worthwhile to do a comparison with other towns to measure gym availability versus population and demand.

Currently, Gene rents his Tae Kwon Do space from P&R and Erin rents her dance space from the town. It would be good to have a uniform rental policy and understand the legal issues.

DSHS does not have a school pool. Their swim team has partnered with Medfield in the past, but the team is dismantling after this year. Conversations have happened around partnering with Holliston. We discussed whether Dover had the space for a town pool that could then be used/rented by the high school. Caryl Park has the space, but the town would lose a playing field.

The uncertainty of the future availability of physical space has affected P&R course offerings. P&R has been cautious in offering indoor programs because of this uncertainty. The current condition of the building has also colored program participants' attitudes toward P&R offerings.

Misc.

Summer Concerts-

Dave reported that turn out was low for all concerts except the privately-funded Thiss concert. There was discussion around: moving the concerts to Wednesday nights to avoid competing with Tuesday night summer swim meets; finding sponsors for all the concerts; scheduling one for the early evening of Dover Days; and eliminating the summer concerts and offering them on Saturday nights in the early Fall instead. The cost of each concert ranges from \$600 to \$1,000.

House decorating contest –

Houses would be judged for best holiday decorations with the winner being announced at the tree lighting celebration.

Pre-PanMass Bike Ride-

It was suggested that P&R could offer a Fun Ride and donate the proceeds to a charity. Bikers in Dover are busy during the Spring training for the PanMass Challenge and other races. This event could tie in nicely with their training rides.

Dover Dog Days-

The idea behind this event would be for dog owners to gather with their pets for a dog-lovers party. Dogs would be judged in various categories.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55am

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Simms, P&R Secretary