

**Dover Parks and Recreation Commission  
Meeting of August 5, 2009  
Minutes**

P&R Commissioners In Attendance: John Budd, Peter Davies, Rich Oasis, Scott Seidman, Nancy Simms  
P&R Employees In Attendance: Jessica Cooney, David MacTavish  
Others in Attendance: Jim Waugh (Warrant Committee)

**Meeting was called to order at 7:40am.**

**Meeting Minutes**

There were no minutes to review.

**Turf Fields at Caryl Park / Reconfiguration Study - Funding**

P&R is currently talking with the sports clubs in town to raise awareness as well as funds for completing the schematic design for the reconfiguration. It was pointed out that these clubs and the parents comprising them may be tapped out by other financial obligations arising from the Region's refusal to fund freshman sports teams. For this academic year, parents and/or the clubs are funding freshman girls soccer and the JV hockey team. They will have to fund freshman boys and girls lacrosse in the spring as well. Progress will be reported at next month's meeting. The contractor will need approximately three months to complete the plan.

**Caryl Community Center Update**

The Committee has asked P&R to present its best estimate on the size and cost of a gym that would fit the needs of P&R. Dave will work on collecting this information from contacts he has in the industry.

Nancy reported that the Committee continues to question what programs P&R is offering or will offer, especially those geared toward adults aged 20 to 40. P&R has responded to this inquiry in the past. At this point, there is no new information to share. Nancy will confirm that the Committee is aware of the various documents already submitted.

**Caryl building space rentals**

The conversation turned to current classes being offered in the building but not run through P&R. It was agreed that beginning with the new academic year, that all programs and classes held in P&R space would have to be run through P&R. These programs and classes would be included in the P&R brochure and on our website. Registration and fees will be handled through P&R which will retain a percentage of the revenue and remit the balance to the instructor. It was discussed that the percentage retained by P&R should be higher for indoor programs than for outdoor programs because of the maintenance costs associated with the indoor space.

As all of these classes and programs are for adults, this change will help increase P&R's visibility as a provider of activities for the 20 to 40 (or older) age group.

**Open Space Update**

Rich reported that there were no new developments to discuss.

**Revolving Fund**

Dave reported that the revolving fund overage is likely to be about \$23,000 after the required \$10,000 is put in reserve. The town treasurer will certify the exact amount at the end of August. P&R needs to allocate these moneys by September 1.

Possible projects discussed included: Carpeting and painting the library, refinishing the gym floor, improving entrance to the gym, fixing lights at the Caryl Park basketball court, offering complimentary defibrillator training, additional funding of the Matt Dowd baseball dugouts. It was agreed that carpet and paint work on the library would commence immediately. Additional projects would be discussed at next month's meeting once we had the certified cash amount.

### **Town Common Signage**

Justine Kent, representing the League of Women Voters, has requested time on the agenda for our September meeting to discuss erecting a permanent sign on town common. Peter will extend her the invitation and ask her to provide each of us all materials ahead of time. Justine will be allocated 20 minutes at the beginning of the meeting.

### **Dover Days Fair**

Jess needs help the day of the event, especially for ticket sales. Commissioners will help. Jess will contact the high school to see if there are students interested in helping in exchange for community service credit. It was decided not to extend the fair this year to include a dinner and/or a square dance. These ideas will be revisited for next year.

### **Miscellaneous**

**Winter Ski Program at Chickering** – Given the new school schedule where students will be in school every other Wednesday, the Chickering Ski Program is in jeopardy of being cancelled. Dave has written a letter to Superintendent Valerie Spriggs asking for her thoughts on excusing ski program participants from school on two Wednesday afternoons during the winter. Dave will appear at the Dover School Committee Meeting in September to discuss the future of this very popular program.

**Field Maintenance** – All fields will receive top soil prior to the start of fall programs. There will be no field resting this fall.

**Freshman athletic programs** – Concern was expressed about the Region's continued failure to get coaching positions accepted into their budget, especially for freshman teams. Parents and clubs are fast tiring of footing the bill for coaches and or of forgoing programs for their children. P&R has worked hard to pull together football and field hockey programs for middle school students to fill the void left by the Region's inability to fund programs for this age group. Questions were raised about what happens to students who participate in sports activities through 8<sup>th</sup> grade and then have nothing in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Reference was made to numerous studies demonstrating the positive impact on academic performance of providing athletic programs for students. At the middle school level in particular, keeping kids busy keeps them out of trouble. P&R has also supported the local soccer, baseball/softball and lacrosse clubs which run their programs for kids through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. This support has been mostly donations in kind: field maintenance and lining, lacrosse goals, baseball and softball equipment, defibrillators, a storage shed for equipment at Caryl field, administrative assistance, and other smaller services.

**Emergency phone number** – Recently there have been a few situations where an after-hours phone number would have been useful for people. The need for an emergency after-hours phone number was discussed. The only such service available currently, for P&R or any town department, is through the Dover police department. Alternatively, Dave's cell phone number is 508-335-7748.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:55am**

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Simms, Secretary for P&R Commission