



Travis Farley
Recreation & Parks
Director

Natick Recreation & Parks

People Driven. Service Focused.

4.10.23
Recreation and Parks
Commission Meeting Minutes

Present: Kelly McPherson, Chair, Seth Levine, Vice Chair, Wayne Szretter, Barbara Sanchez, David Ordway, Jessica Ordway, Sandra Dower, Dave Hiller, Saul Beaumont, Travis Farley, Deputy Director of Recreation and Parks and Andrea Verdelli, Recording secretary

Absent: Mike Fair

Meeting called to order: 6:05pm

Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes by Mr. Szretter. Seconded by Ms. Sanchez
Motion passed unanimously.

Citizens' Concerns:

Robin Gilmore-Barnes, resident of 8 Manchester Place in Natick, states when Natick was removed from the Playtime Scheduler app, the court became available on another app called Team Reach. She encourages the town to provide a scheduling app to have control over it and emphasizes level of play is important to include.

Susan Zucker, resident of 16 Ivy Lane in Natick, expresses that pickleball is not a sport that the "first come first serve" policy supports. Playtime Scheduler helps organize 12-16 people on the courts as well as a great way to divide up the courts by level and bring people together. It's important to address the issue of people claiming courts, not abiding by the recommended playtimes as well as determine either a court monitor or clear court rules that works in coalition with pickleball play.

Rick Zucker, resident of 16 Ivy Lane in Natick, Raises the issue of beginners being told to use other courts out of town, but emphasizes there are just as many groups of welcoming players as there are intimidating ones, and asks our department to determine a way to manage this without punishing the welcoming players.

Ed Reilly, resident of 8 Algonquin Road in Natick, is a frequent user and states his experience is totally different as he has never seen a conflict on the field. He believes Playtime Scheduler helps the pickleball courts run smoothly.

Jim Action, resident of 4 Leland Road in Natick, states Team Reach isn't as effective as Playtime Scheduler, but would rather advocate for 7 days a week at Connor Heffler than initiate a scheduling app.

Doug Steinberg, resident of 17 Ridge Ave in Natick, asks what the process of determining the courts as pickleball only.



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Directors Report:

Tree Donation: June Szretter from Charles River Rotary is working on donating a tree at J.J. Lane Park.

Easter Egg Hunt: The Easter Egg Hunt event was a successful event, around 130 children registered and collected around 2,000 eggs at the Community Senior Center yard.

BAA Request: Mr. Farley asks commissioners for suggestions for projects to put this money towards.

Goat Scaping: During Earth Day weekend, taking place on April 29th and 30th, goats from the Natick Community Organic Farm will be released in a fenced in area to eat poison ivy and weeds at J.J. Lane Park.

ADA Swings: New ADA swings will be installed at Connor Heffler and Navy Yard park in the next month.

Playground Updates: Rodney Spimazola, Land Facilities and Natural Resources, has been trained to be a certified playground inspector and will complete the playground replacements at J.J. Lane Park.

MRPA State Conference: Programmers just attended the MRPA meeting to discuss and compare other recreation programs and vendors, including how they manage Pickleball.

Little League Parade: Little League will be marching down the street to Hunnewell Field on their opening day.

Donation Report: Motion to accept by Mr. Szretter. Seconded by Ms. Sanchez. Motion passed unanimously

Common Requests:

Tour De Natick: Charles River Rotary Club of Natick requests to host their annual Tour De Natick on June 18th from 9:00am-3:00pm.

Mr. Levine moves to accept. Seconded by Mr. Dower. Motion passed unanimously.

Natick Catholic Community Picnic: Natick Catholic Community requests to host a picnic for the church and the community after their mass on May 28th from 11:00am- 3:00pm.

Mr. Hiller moves to accept. Ms. Dower seconds. Motion passed unanimously.

Natick Nights: -Natick Center Cultural District to host their annual Natick Nights on June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 and July 6, 13, 20, 27 from 4:00-800pm. This event will coexist with Concerts on the Common.

Mr. Ordway. Ms. Sanchez seconds. Motion passed unanimously.



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Concerts on the Common: -Natick Recreation and Parks Department to host the annual Concerts on the Common on the following Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30pm on July 11, 18, 25 and August 1 and 8 as well as the following Thursdays from 7:30-9:00 pm on June 29, July 6, 13, 20, 27, August 3 and 10 with rain dates on Aug 15 and 17. This event will coexist with Natick Nights.

Ms. Ordway. Ms. Dower seconds. Motion passed unanimously.

Member Announcements:

Member Election: Reorganization tabled until next month.

CRT: A grant was approved from Mathworks and MetroWest Health Organization for a shed and handicapped bike on the CRT. Ms. McPherson suggests connecting with AMVETS who have some ADA bikes and are looking for someone who needs them.

NEETEGA: No new updates.

PATH: Moving meetings to evenings in hopes to give more people the opportunity to attend. The fundraiser Judie Dixson hosted was successful. A lot of progress was made regarding the name change.

Open Space: No new updates.

Charles River Dam: No new updates.

Gazebo Repair: Last meeting was April 6th to welcome new members. Inquiring about a grant to help with cost. Overview of designs, placement and suggestions of public forums.

Motion to adjourn:

Mr. Ordway moves to adjourn at 7:01. Seconded by Mr. Levine.

Next meeting date:

May 8, 2023.