



Travis Farley  
Recreation & Parks  
Director

# *Natick Recreation & Parks*

People Driven. Service Focused.

May 8, 2023  
Commission Meeting  
Recreation and Parks

Present: Kelly McPherson, Wayne Szretter, Mike Fair, Barbara Sanchez, David Ordway, Sandra Dower, Travis Farley, Deputy Director of Recreation and Parks and Andrea Verdelli, Recording Secretary

Absent: Seth Levine, Jessica Ordway

Meeting called to order: 6:00pm

**Minutes:** Barbara Sanchez: Common requests first paragraph down, Mr. Downer change to Ms. Downer. Mr. Ordway moves to accept minutes with amendment, Mr. Szretter seconds. Motion passed.

## **Citizen's Concerns:**

None

## **Directors Report:**

*Outdoor Reading Rooms:* Outdoor reading rooms will have their grand opening in various places around town. At the Cole Center, Keefe Tech will have their grand opening on Friday June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11:00 am. At the Morse Institute Library, Paul Blankey will have his grand opening on June 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am, and at Connor Heffler Park, Deborah Tuckwarz will have her grand opening on June 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am.

*Seasonal Staff Outing:* Games and refreshments will be available at them Amvets for over 100 seasonal staff members as a way to thank them for their work and dedication to our department.

*Playground Updates:* Recruited LFNR's certified playground inspector to install two ADA accessible swings at Navy Yard and Connor Heffler Playgrounds.

*Pickleball Update:* Mr. Farley met with a working group and conducted a public survey to gain perspective and feedback from the community. Information gathered reveals an emphasis on a need for a scheduling app. The courts will be open for reservation by Natick residents only on pickleball recommended days (Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday) from 11:00 am until dusk, and the schedule will be displayed online publically. From 8:00 am until 11:00 am on pickleball recommended days, the courts will be available on a first come first



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serve basis for anyone to join round robin play, this includes non-residents and any level player. Tuesday and Sunday remain Tennis recommended days.

*Spring Field Update:* Our department is actively working with LFNR on field installations and repairs from unpermitted use during the mild winter. The transition to permitted use has been difficult and trash accumulation is higher than usual but the police department has been a huge help in dispersing unpermitted large groups.

*Assistant Director of Resource Allocation:* Kathy Gross, from Waltham, has been hired with over 10 years of recreation experience and unique project experience. Kathy will start on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

*Donation Report:* Mr. Szretter moves to accept, Ms. Sanchez seconds. Motion passed unanimously.

## **Common Requests:**

None.

## **Member Announcements:**

*Reorganization of Commission:* Tabled until next meeting.

*CRT:* No new updates.

*NEETEGA:* No new updates.

*PATH:* No new updates.

*Open Space:* Earth Day events were successful.

*Charles River Dam:* No new updates.

*Gazebo Repair:* No new updates.

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Ordway at 7:00pm. Second by Ms. McPherson.

## **Next meeting date:**

June 12, 2023 at 6:00pm



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