

Town of Medfield

Office of
Medfield Parks & Recreation



Kevin Ryder, CPRP
Director of Parks & Recreation

Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes February 9, 2022

1) 6:09 PM Call Parks and Recreation Open Meeting to Order

Commissioners: Mel Seibolt, Nick Brown, Rob Tatro, Kirsty Young (had to leave at 6:45pm)

Staff Members: Kevin Ryder

Invited guests: Austin Ludwig and David Pollak from Abacus

2) Austin started off the meeting discussing the site of a new recreation center. He suggested there are two sites in town that would be able to fit the recreation center – the Dale Street School/Pfaff Center property and the Hospital Road site. David asked how can we bring the study to a productive conclusion?

Rob Tatro said the climate right now and the willingness of the taxpayers to put forth tax dollars to a new building seems unfeasible. He said the reality is the Pfaff Center is not sustainable in the near future.

Mel Seibolt said there is no infrastructure at the hospital road site. He also mentioned that Park & Rec is always at the backend of the queue in town. He said a new school is warranted and that it is depressing for Park & Rec because the Pfaff is clearly falling down.

Rob said we need a path moving forward. Do we wait for MSBA process to play out or move ahead with our project? He doesn't know if we will ever find our way in front of the school project.

Nick Brown said the biggest obstacle is utilities to the Hospital Road site.

Rob said he thinks that town would support a building, just not one to excess. We are looking for functionality and quality and thinks we would get the support, but the timing is tough.

Kirsty Young asked what would happen if the Pfaff fell down?

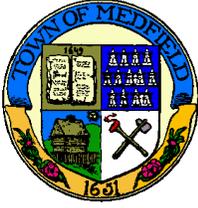
David Pollak asked about leveling the Pfaff Center and building new at the current site and max out the site. There would be a need for swing space for Park & Rec for 12+ months in this scenario.

Kevin asked where that swing space would be.

The discussion then was about what are the available properties for a new recreation center?

Chris Potts (Curve Street) asked about a 16.5 acre parcel off West Mill Street (PL44) that was originally purchased for a new school. (Kevin will check with Sarah Raposa).

Discussion happened around having another public forum. Would it be virtual? What are we looking for? What do we want from the public? How many scenarios? How to make it not confusing?



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3) Kevin provided some updates to the Commission:

- * had a discussion about AEDs at the fields with Board of Health
- * The Boston Strangler movie used McCarthy Park for overflow parking and donated \$500 that Kevin is putting toward the new playground fund
- * Will be meeting with Hinkley Helpers, a group that is being started by Kelly Fallon to fundraise for a new playground at Hinkley
- * working with MYBS on a new bleacher project at Metacomet
- * Ski Club is happening and is sold out
- * Summer Camp registration started Feb. 1 and is already filling up

4) Rob asked about the possibility of a disc golf course at McCarthy Park and the sledding hill area. Kevin and Rob will meet to discuss this more.

5) Chris Potts jumped in about the recreation center project. She asked how Park and Rec could collaborate with the schools on a new project. What constraints would MSBA have on a shared project?

2) Adjourn – 7:48pm

Motion: Rob

Second: Mel

All in favor (3-0)