



Town of Medfield

Office of
Medfield Parks & Recreation



Kevin Ryder, CPRP
Director of Parks & Recreation

Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes May 5, 2022

- 1) 6:02 PM Call Parks and Recreation Open Meeting to Order
IN PERSON AT THE PFAFF CENTER
Commissioners: Mel Seibolt, Mike Parks, Kirsty Young, Lauren Beitelspacher
Staff Members: Kevin Ryder
Attendee: Chris McCue Potts
- 2) Welcome to Lauren for being elected to the Commission. A discussion was had about a re-organization of the board. Ultimately it was decided to keep the board as constituted with Mel Seibolt continuing to serve as the chairperson.
- 3) Kevin provided an update on the Metacomet bleacher project. The bleachers have been constructed and installed and are ready for use. The project was fundraised and full supported by Medfield Youth Baseball and Softball.
- 4) Kevin reminded the commissioners that the Hinkley Helpers kickoff event will be held May 15 at Hinkley Park starting at 11 am.
- 5) A discussion was started about increasing field rental fees. Kevin mentioned that our current fees are lower than most in the region and have held at the current levels for the past 6+ years despite costs rising for materials. Discussion was had about a phased approach to raising the fees instead of a larger increase at once. Kevin mentioned he had to negotiate a new rental contract with MAP last spring that included escalators over three years instead of a large year one increase. Kevin will get more information from surrounding towns so the commission can have another discussion at a future meeting. Kevin also mentioned inviting the user groups in to be part of the discussion.
- 6) Kevin provided an update on spring programs and happenings with the department. Field use is high this spring and we have wait lists for some popular programs like micro, pre-k and kindergarten soccer and T-ball because of a lack of additional space to house the growing need. To ease parking at McCarthy Park, the senior men's softball league was pushed back to July on Saturdays and games and activities were scheduled with 15 minute buffers to try to help with the parking.
- 7) Summer camp wait lists are getting smaller as we are able to add more spots as additional staff gets hired. Some weeks are completely full and other weeks we are near capacity but awaiting confirmation from staff before adding more campers. Lifeguards have been hired for Hinkley, but the swim team program is in jeopardy as we do not have a coach.
- 8) Rob couldn't attend the meeting, but Kevin walked McCarthy Park with him to get a sense of where and how an 18-hole disc golf course could fit within the footprint. Rob did get an initial estimate of \$25,000 for building a course. Kevin and Rob will be meeting with a course designer to get more feedback before presenting findings to the Commission.
- 9) Mel made note of Nick Brown's service to the Commission.
- 10) Adjourn – 7:37pm
Motion: Mel Second: Mike
All in favor (4-0)