



City of Methuen, Massachusetts
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
Athletic and Recreational Enhancement Committee
The Searles Building • 41 Pleasant Street
Methuen, Massachusetts 01844
TELEPHONE (978) 983-8510 • FAX (978) 983-8975

Athletic and Recreational Enhancement Committee Membership:

Joel Faretra, Central District City Councilor

James McCarty, Central District City Councilor

Allison Saffie, West District City Councilor

Steve Angelo, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation

Matt Curran, Athletic Director at Methuen High School

Committee for Athletic and Recreational Enhancement minutes

Tuesday, January 31, 2023 @ 6:30pm in the Great Hall in the Searles Building

Athletic and Recreational Enhancement Committee attendance:

Joel Faretra, Central District City Councilor, James McCarty, Central District City Councilor, Allison Saffie, West District City Councilor, Steve Angelo, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, Matt Curran, Athletic Director at Methuen High School

Chris Gonyner- Methuen Youth Baseball, Michele Cushman- Methuen Youth Soccer, Joe Dibattista- Methuen Girls Softball, Peter Koziell- Methuen Youth Lacrosse, Danielle Osorio, Joe Boyden and Bill Mulvanity- Methuen Youth Hockey

Panelist/public participation- Phil Lahey from MVPASAP

- Acceptance of the Agenda- Motion to accept agenda by Councilor McCarty, seconded by Councilor Saffie(3 Yes)
- Acceptance of previous meeting minutes, 2/28, 3/28, 8/31,11/28-Motion to approve Councilor Saffie, Seconded Councilor McCarty. (3 Yes)
- Presentation from Phil Lahey of MVPASAP

Gave a brief description of the work they do, the goals and how they can help. Hoping to get the information out to parents, leagues, etc.

Two handouts

- Event coming up "Heal your brain and your body will follow" a Greater Lawrence Tech this Saturday 1/4/23
- Substance abuse support group flier

Matt Curran (MHS) if your group could film what you said, during sign-ups, we could include the video for the sign up process.

Phil Lahey-We can get material like that but what we also hope is to get to talk to parents during coffee hour, to talk them.

Councilor Faretra-Another thing that came up, is a lot of organizations have a hard time getting parents to come to meetings, parent involvement is at an all time low. But instead having it during an event or game with more parents attending it would be the ideal solution.

Phil Lahey- We would love to do that, we just need a weeks notice to get it set up.

Councilor Faretra-It is very important to get this information out, it is happening younger and younger. Even if it gets out to one parent and helps one family. I'll reach out to you and get Cole's information to keep you in the loop on upcoming events to get involved in.

- **Old Business**

Councilor Faretra to Supt. Angelo: Do you have an update on fields, Preventive maintenance Etc.

Superintendent Angelo: Still in the process of hiring and environmental Superintendent to have those conversations with splitting responsibilities.

- **New Business**

Joe Boyden (Methuen Youth Hockey) The issue at the rink was that staff were sick, so they shut the rink down at night which caused us to lose rink time. We reached out to Brandi Kwong to talk about future solutions

Councilor Faretra reads Dr. Kwong's email into the record...

You are correct in that we had serious staffing issues not only in the ice rink but across the district last week. Everyone did as much as they could to keep the rink and other aspects of our district running. Our ice rink manager and business manager have been interviewing for weeks now and it has been posted for months. Again, like so many other areas in the district, we are having tremendous difficulty filling positions. Several of the applicants who interviewed or were interested have stopped communicating with us which poses real challenges. We continue to keep the posting open and hope in the next week or two we may have a committed candidate or candidates. We are considering all different configurations of covering the shifts at this point. We understand the disruption and we will do everything we can to keep the rink running, but it is certainly difficult when we are still dealing with COVID illness and absences.

If you or any of your coaches or families know of anyone interested in working in the ice rink, please encourage them to apply online. <https://methuen.tedk12.com/hire/index.aspx>

Thank you.

Brandi L. Kwong, Ed.D.

Councilor Faretra asks Superintendent Angelo for an update on Tennis courts and Lights on Burnham Rd

Superintendent Angelo: Tennis courts is a priority and it is in conversation to get it pushed forward to get the project down. The Burnham Road lights I do not have an update now, but will make it a priority.

Councilor Faretra expressed concern about the timing for the Tennis courts bid, Councilor approval and breaking ground all for a hopeful start date one July 1 and fearful for it to snowball far down the line to September and then next year.

Councilor Faretra: Next would be the clearing of the turf, the city doesn't own the equipment to take care of it with snow.

Superintendent Angelo: If we need to clear it, we have a list of vendors but we will have to figure out how to fund it.

Councilor Faretra: Hopefully the excuses from the City will stop when it comes to getting them clear

Councilor Faretra: looking for a Spring Fields update from Superintendent Angelo

Superintendent Angelo: Spring fields requests from a couple of groups, I would like to get them all within the next few weeks. It takes time to make the schedule and to meet what the groups will need.

- **Individual Group Updates**

Recreational Department-February vacation programs are coming out, it is the goal to have all the spring programs out by March 1

Matt Curran-Our spring schedules are out. Branch St, is a gym that can be utilized year around once we get the information of when it's used we can give an update next year

Councilor McCarty-As a committee, as councilors we need to utilize Maggie or someone from her team to cost these needs out that Superintendent Angelo identified (Positions and Equipment) to present and bring forward come budget time. I think the time is right to adjust

Joe-(Softball) We are doing a little better than last, we have more people signed up, about fifty. We are looking at opening day April 22nd, March 1st we are throwing a fundraiser at the Irish Cottage.

Pete (Lacrosse) -Our numbers are strong this year, we are looking at adding second teams for age levels. Looking to use the fieldhouse for skills and drills.

Joe (Hockey)-Things are going good. One question for Superintendent Angelo, what is going on with the outside hockey rink?

Superintendent Angelo-That is a conversation we will have soon

Chris (baseball) Our numbers for registration are good, we have about 286 kids hoping to be at that number or higher. April 29 opening day, and a fundraiser this Saturday (Music Bingo)

Michelle (soccer) Our registration is open until tomorrow as of right now we have about forty teams. We have 17 teams playing right now, we are busy.

Councilor Faretra: Did we want to meet the week of March 13th? The committee agreed. He will see what is available for the Great Hall and MCTV since that works for everyone.

Motion to adjourn 7:19pm, unanimous

