

Town of Sudbury
Park and Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
August 30, 2010

Present: Commissioners- Jim Marotta, Georgette Heerwagon, Bobby Beagan, Dick Williamson – Nancy McShea-P&R Director

Guests: Sudbury Baseball representatives-Scott McGavick, Mike Walsh, Kirk Fredrick, Bob Haarde - Bd of Selectmen

Minutes from the June 28, 2010 Park and Recreation Commission meeting were reviewed and approved. 4-0.

Nancy stated that the department is working with Mark Thompson to get the approved minutes and meeting agenda posted on the Park and Recreation website.

Georgette updated the Commissioners on Sudbury Baseball's (Babe Ruth and Little League) attempt to present their plan for the Melone property at the August 23rd Selectmen's meeting. Representatives from Sudbury Baseball attended the meeting, but were unable to present their plan because they were not on the agenda. Sudbury Baseball is now on the Selectman's agenda for September 7th at 9:00 pm.

Jim Marotta asked for clarification on the Park and Recreation Commission's role in hearing the presentation from Sudbury Baseball again. He questioned if it was the Park and Recreation Commission's role to decide the finances of the plan. He views the Commission as more of a policy making board.

Georgette stated that the CPC has never funded 1.7 million for any singular project other than large parcels of land which have been bonded. She felt it would be difficult for Sudbury Baseball to ask for that much when they were only going to put in \$300,000.

Sudbury Baseball - Georgette presented the Park and Recreation's concerns to Sudbury Baseball - which are

1. The request from Sudbury Baseball for total access to the fields and hiring their own outside maintenance contractor.
2. The amount of money being requested from CPC
3. The project should not only be revenue neutral to the Town of Sudbury, but generate revenue. What will the agreement be for revenue disbursement to the town? How will that be established?

Scott McGavick stated that the initial plan is to hire an outside source to maintain the fields. He said that the revenue brought in by the fields would pay for the expense.

He continued that Sudbury is known as a "baseball" town and felt this plan has a lot of revenue potential for the Town of Sudbury. He estimated concessions would bring in an estimated \$32,000 each year, the fields, when not in use by Sudbury teams, could be rented out to outside user groups for individual games and practices in addition to tournaments. The estimated revenue from this activity is \$4,000. Another revenue source would be to sell advertising opportunities to local companies. Another possible source of revenue would come in from tournaments if the plan included fencing around one or two of the fields to be able to charge admission.

Scott handed out a presentation on the scope of Sudbury Baseball's presentation to all attendees. He stated that there isn't really anything like this in the north of the state to hold tournaments and believes this would be a real revenue opportunity for the town.

He did state this is a revenue estimate and isn't sure if they will hit the number or blow it away.

Nancy asked if Scott had heard anything further on the land owned by the Sudbury Water District that is part of his plan. He hadn't but Dick added he didn't think the Water Department was using the well at this time due to some toxins that were used nearby in the past. The Water District owns the land so they would have to approve it and Dick added that a concern would be any impermeable surface put on the land.

Georgette asked about the disbursement of the revenue between baseball and the Town of Sudbury. Scott said that would definitely be negotiable with the Town. She noted that any money coming to the Town would not go into the CPA account.

Georgette again stated the concern about the amount baseball was requesting from the CPC, especially in this current economic times. Scott responded with "Isn't this the type of plan that the CPA money should be used for?"

Scott also asked the Park and Recreation Commission if the Selectmen had to vote to approve their plan in order for it to be considered by the CPC. Bob Haarde said the Selectmen may or may not vote on it, but that Sudbury Baseball could ask for a vote on it.

Dick Williamson mentioned again that Needham did some interesting financing to fund a similar recreation site and suggested that Sudbury Baseball follow up on Paul Griffin's suggestion from the last meeting to see if that would be something that would work for them. Nancy suggested they talk to the Needham Park and Recreation Director.

Dick also stated that recreation was not a part of the original thrust of the CPA plan so the CPC is more likely to emphasize other uses of CPA funds, especially for open space.

After all the discussion on how to finance the plan, Jim Marrotta still questioned if that was the Park and Recreation Commission's role. Bob Haarde was asked what he thought Park and Recreation's role was and his response was that the Commission should decide if there is a need for this project and will it pay for itself over time. Dick commented that he felt the Park and Recreation Commission should look at finances as part of an overall proposal because the Commission would like to support a proposal that was likely to be accepted by the Town.

Scott mentioned to the Commissioners, as a follow-up to a previous discussion from a past Commission meeting, that Gale, the company that has done some design work on the plan for baseball, was looking for payment on an invoice for \$2,500. Scott recalled that Paul Griffin mentioned that possibly The Friends of Park and Recreation may be able to help out with the bill. Scott was informed that the Park and Recreation Commission did not have control of the disbursement of the funds and he would have to address his request to Paul, who is on the Friends Board.

The Park and Recreation Commissioners were in agreement that the more they talked about the plan the more they felt they were not really sure what financial plan was going to work. Georgette suggested Sudbury Baseball may want to ask the Selectmen for more feedback and guidance on how they should approach the plan with the CPC.

Dick Williamson said Baseball may not want to mention the housing aspect of the plan. Scott said Jody Kablack said she didn't think it was relevant at this time.

The question of whether the Selectmen's goals have been set was asked of Bob Haarde and the answer was yes. He did offer that even if this subject isn't on the Selectmen's goals it could still be brought up and may not be an automatic no for consideration.

Scott asked Georgette if anyone has come to the CPC with alternate plans. Georgette's reply was not to her knowledge.

There was some discussion about thinking out of the box on the financing for this project, because a project like this hasn't come up before in front of the CPC.

Bobby Beagan questioned what the Park and Recreation Commission was approving for Sudbury Baseball to bring to the Selectmen. After additional discussion **a motion was made for the Park and Recreation Commission to support the need and support the concept of Sudbury Baseball's plan for the Melone property. The Commission also would support whatever financial request from CPC that the Selectmen deem appropriate for this project.**

The motion received a second and was approved by a 4-0 vote.

Nancy reported that the Selectmen had approved the liquor permit for the new Wine and Cheese class offered by Park and Recreation in the Fall Brochure.

Nancy also reported that accountability of all expenses attributable to the Park and Recreation Department was not on the BOS Goals.

Nancy distributed the new Park and Recreation Fall brochure to the Commissioners. She mentioned the new staff members and Jim M. asked for the contact info for the new Therapeutic Rec Specialist to relay to his contact at Top Soccer.

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for either Monday, September 20th or 27th or Tuesday September 21st or 28th. An email will be sent and the date will be set based on which day is best for most of the Commissioners.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

