

Town of Sudbury
Park and Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes

Present: Commissioners - Jim Marotta, Georgette Heerwagen, Paul Griffin, Dick Williamson – Nancy McShea-
P&R Director Guests: Helen Young, the Patch.com

Minutes from the October 18th meeting were reviewed and approved.

Melone Property / CPC Request – Georgette distributed a copy of the Project Submission Form for a CPC request.

Dick Williamson reviewed his meeting with Maureen Valente regarding the Park and Recreation baseball project request for the Melone property and the request for CPC funds. Dick reviewed the areas he discussed with Maureen and her comments. The two major areas discussed concerned scope and finances. Park and Recreation should address only the “first and best use” for a recreation purpose and Park and Recreation must also address finances, including development, maintenance, users’ fees, and income from other users. Overall the project must be expense neutral to the town.

Maureen asked questions such as why aren’t other towns going after a complex like this? Does Park and Recreation really think it will be a money maker? She asked what if we build it and no one comes? She suggested Park and Recreation do a cost analysis based on the premise no one from the outside requests to rent the fields.

Nancy asked if that is a fair question since we don’t expect or ask that questions of other youth group users.

Jim M. felt it was a good idea to fester out all these areas of concern as we move forward with the project.

Maureen’s biggest concern is the expense to the town and the finances of the project.

Paul Griffin reviewed the past Gale field need study and said even though it was completed 6 years ago the information is still valuable and good to review. It could be updated to see how the current user numbers affect the field recommendations.

Nancy stated that after her recent meeting with Dr. Brackett it appears that the school projected numbers are dropping off along with the long term projections.

Georgette asked if Maureen had any alternative projects being planned for Melone. Dick W. responded there was no indication of that and the town was looking for “highest and best” use. The possible areas mentioned were housing, commercial, and recreation.

Maureen also questioned revenue generated from concession and how that would be handled. Would it go back to the user group or to the Field Enterprise Fund?

The Commissioners discussed other fields in the area that might be similar to the proposed recreation complex for the Melone property.

Georgette asked where is the funding coming from for the feasibility study for the Melone property. She asked if they would do the feasibility study or the user need study first. Nancy responded that they would do both at the same time.

Dick W. commented that if the Commission is thinking about putting in a CPC request they would need some type of place holder by November 12th.

Nancy offered to contact Gale Associates to see if they could work up a proposal. She was concerned over whether Gale could get it done in 9 days. Paul questioned if it would be a good idea to include Davis in the plans, but the other Commissioners felt it would be best not to at this time.

Dick expressed concern over who was going to be responsible to control the project. Would it be someone from baseball? Nancy said if approved it would be her responsibility to oversee the project.

The Commissioners discussed who would pay for the feasibility study and questioned if it would be better to use Friends of Park and Recreation money rather than request funds from CPC at this time.

Paul stated that there was between \$100,000-\$120,000 in the Friends of Park and Recreation account at this time. He felt that the money could be used, but that it would be better to wait until the Sports Council was established before any of the funds spent.

The decision was made to request funds from the CPC as long as Gale can get information to Nancy in time to make the deadline.

Georgette offered to get a copy of the feasibility study for the Mahoney Property from Jody Kablack.

Nancy will wait to hear from Gale Associates and plan to fill out the CPC submission request form. Dick W. will handle question #5 and Nancy asked that he have the information to her by November 10th. She will gather the rest of the information and submit the request by November 12th.

Next meeting was tentative scheduled for November 15th or November 29th.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.