

Town of Sudbury  
Park and Recreation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
September 27, 2010

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

Guests: Sudbury Baseball representative-Scott McGavick

Minutes from the August 30th, 2010 Park and Recreation Commission meeting were reviewed and approved.

**Feeley Field/Off Leash Dog Park** - Tina Hermosa, asked to speak to the Park and Recreation Commission regarding her wish for an off leash dog park in Sudbury. She felt that existing softball field at upper Feeley would be a perfect location for this park because all that it would need would be some additional fencing. She referenced baseball fields in Brookline (where she recently lived) that were used for this purpose. Ms. Hermosa stated that there was self-policing by the users to make sure that the fields were cleaned up and problems were addressed.

Jim M. asked if there was a fee charged for using the park and if she knew what is cost to run the park. Dick W. mentioned the problems with dogs at Davis and other fields. He stated the biggest problem was dog waste. Nancy had concerns regarding field maintenance problems due to dogs urinating on the fields.

Ms. Hermosa said it might be better to have an official off leash park because people are letting their dogs on the fields anyway.

The Commissioners were in agreement that baseball fields were not made to be dog parks.

The Commissioners suggested that Ms. Hermosa go up to Davis Field, where there is conservation land that many people use to let their dogs run off leash. Georgette H. gave Ms. Hermosa some information on other areas to walk dogs in the woods in Sudbury.

Ms. Hermosa asked if there were any plans to put a playground, similar to the Haskell playground, at Feeley Field. The answer was no, not at this time, and that if it were to occur in the future, funds would have to be donated like they were for the Haskell playground.

**Melone Property** – The Commissioners opened up discussion on the Melone Property and Sudbury Baseball's presentation to the Board of Selectmen. Scott McGavick, from Sudbury Baseball, was present and asked to join the conversation. Scott offered that he was reading emails and hearing from residents that there is a feeling that the Town of Sudbury is against Baseball's plan for the Melone property.

Paul G. assured Scott that neither he nor the Commission have a specific agenda or have any interest in stonewalling the plan that Sudbury Baseball presented to the Board of Selectmen (BOS). He did state that both Baseball and the Park and Recreation Commission need to agree on the process, which may take longer than people want it to.

Dick W. agreed that caution on the part of the Town in moving quickly on this plan doesn't mean that it won't go forward.

Scott felt Baseball was getting some mixed messages from the BOS. The first Selectmen meeting Sudbury Baseball was under the impression that they were told to go forward to CPA with their presentation.

The second meeting with the BOS, Sudbury Baseball felt that the Selectmen were more cautionary in their statements and wanted to put “the brakes on a bit” before moving forward.

It was clear after the last meeting with the Selectmen, that they want Park and Recreation to provide a needs analysis on the highest and best use for the Melone property. They want the highest and best use of the Melone property from the Park and Recreation Commission’s view. The assessment needs to address the growth potential of the users groups.

Nancy distributed a memo from Jody Kablack to Maureen Valente in regard to the Melone Re-Development Process. The memo outlines the process that the Town might follow in developing the Melone parcel into a different land use.

The Commissioners were still a bit unclear as to their role/responsibility in the redevelopment of the Melone property, so Dick W. offered that he would contact Maureen Valente to see what she really sees as the role of the Park and Recreation Commission working with Sudbury Baseball in regard to the Melone property.

The Commission suggested that there was a need to gather all Users in a room to have a discussion on field space and current and future needs from all Youth Groups. It would be best for everyone if Park and Recreation and Sudbury Baseball are viewed as one on the plan for the Melone property. Nancy held a meeting with Girl’s Softball representatives and learned that they may want to see one of the fields in the Baseball proposal be a softball field that the girls/women in town could play/practice on.

Nancy stated that only one or two Park and Recreation Commissioners should attend the User Group meeting otherwise the meeting would be considered a Park and Recreation Commission meeting and would have to be posted. It was suggested that one representative per User Group be invited. Paul will send out an email to the Users Groups inviting them to the meeting.

Jim Marotta suggested using Friends money to get Gale to update the Master Field Plan that was completed a number of years ago. It was felt by the Park and Recreation Commissioners that the Friends money would be a perfect fit for a field study.

Scott mentioned that he will be going in front of the CPC on Wednesday and that Jody Kablack requested that he attend. This would be an opportunity to get the plan for recreational development of Melone property on the radar screen and provide another venue for feedback. He will update the Park and Recreation Commission on his meeting.

Paul stated that as long as the plan for the Melone property was expense neutral and generated revenue for the town, the BOS would be in favor of the project.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm. The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for October 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.