

Town of Sudbury
Park and Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2011

Present: Commissioners- Paul Griffin, Jim Marotta, Bobby Beagan, Dick Williamson, Nancy McShea-P&R Director
Guests: Howard Levy, Sandy Moore, Mike Walsh, Bob Lee, Fred Walker, Maureen Valente, Town Manager, Larry O'Brien, Selectmen

Minutes from the October 17, 2011 meeting were approved with corrections.

New Business – Nancy informed the Commissioners that the Program Coordinator in Wayland is retiring in November. The position is being looked at as another opportunity for regionalization between the towns of Sudbury and Wayland. The idea that is being presented is to have the full-time Program Coordinator in Sudbury supervise the new 18 hour Wayland Program Coordinator. This is being done to save each community about \$12,000 a year and to take advantage of joint programs and joint brochures since in many cases the same vendors are used by each town. Nancy stated that this would be a work in progress and would be reviewed every three months to see how it was working for both towns.

CPC - Dick Williamson offered a summary of the CPC proposals. Wednesday night (11/16/11) will start the hearings for the proposals. Dick stated that the Board of Selectmen requested the Bruce Freeman group do some research into the parking issues at Davis Field.

Field User Fee/Enterprise Fund – Maureen Valente started off by giving background on how and why the Town decided to set up a Field Enterprise Fund. She also stated that it was the Town's objective in this difficult economy to preserve positions. In the first year of the Enterprise Fund, Maureen stated that a small portion of one of the Park and Grounds staff was paid out of the Field Enterprise Fund. In FY 12, due to budget cut backs and the desire not to reduce staff, it was decided that 50% of the Park and Grounds Staff salary would be paid out of the Field Enterprise Fund since the majority of their work was generated by the needs of the youth sports groups and field requests. The Field Enterprise Fund also pays for the summer help that works on the fields.

In order to be sure the Field Enterprise Fund generated enough revenue to cover the additional salary expenses, the field permit fee was increased to \$35 dollars per participant. The representatives from the sports groups were very concerned that this fee could go up at any time the town wanted to cover costs. Maureen understood the concern and while she couldn't promise the fee wouldn't increase at some point in the future, she didn't see an increase coming up anytime soon.

The Commissioners stated that they had voted to take \$5 out of the field permit fee to put into a fund to cover replacement costs for the Cutting Turf Field. In addition, all other field permit fees for Cutting would be put into this account. This account can be adjusted at any point accordingly to the budget if necessary.

Mike Walsh, SLL, expressed concern that baseball has paid a lot of money over the years to the capital fund and for the field permit. His group doesn't feel they get back what they put in and in addition spend their own money on field improvements that the town can't afford. He doesn't think it is right to make baseball users pay for soccer fields. The Commission stated that the \$5.00 going to the account was to initiate a long term maintenance fund. The first goal of the fund would be Cutting Field replacement.

Howard Levy stated that a more refined study should be done to determine the actual cost of maintain a specific field in town. This would help the users better understand the costs and fees. He also stated that the different sports clubs should get some type of acknowledgement for the moneys they have spent on the fields.

Mike Walsh asked for statements on the money that was collected over the years and put in the Friends of Park and Recreation. Paul said he could produce that document.

Nancy offered that many of the projects baseball decides to do on the fields could be done by the Park and Grounds crew, but not necessarily in the same timeframe. Nancy stated that communication of the needs before money is spent is very important.

Howard Levy stated that hopefully the Gale study will be able to help with the needs on the fields and help determine what is really needed and where the money should be spent.

Maureen Valente offered that the town was looking for a Facilities Manager to basically centralize the maintenance of all the town facilities. She said the town needs to plan better and having a centralized person looking at all the facilities will be helpful as maintenance is required.

The user groups asked if there was plan to pay a portion of the new Facilities Manager's salary out of the Field Enterprise Fund. Maureen stated not at this time. The only way that might happen is if he or she were actually spending time working on the fields. Only field expenses or salaries associated with field work can be paid out of the Field Enterprise Fund.

Paul Griffin stated that the Sports Council will get going. He does not want to run it, but thinks the only way to get large projects done in town relating to fields will be to work together.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm