

Town of Sudbury
Park and Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2012

Present: Commissioners- Paul Griffin, Jim Marotta, Bobby Beagan, Tobj Gosdeck, Nancy McShea-P&R Director, Mr. & Mrs. Chinoy

Rail Trail – The commission reviewed Maureen Valente’s letter regarding the Rail Trail and offer from the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail to donate money to the Town of Sudbury to begin design work on a section of the trail from the Concord town line to Route 117. Bobby Beagan said he received a call from a resident asking how the Park and Recreation Commission would respond to the Selectmen. He felt the Commission need to have a response. The concern from the Commission was that until the Gale study is complete it would be difficult to provide a complete response due the unknown demand on the parking lot at Davis. The parking lot at Davis field may also be the parking lot for the Rail Trail. The Commission discussed the possibility that the Selectmen may decide to ask for a vote from the Town residents to see if they want the town to move forward with plans for the Rail Trail.

It was decided to ask Gale, who will be updating the field master plan, to include the Rail Trail’s use of Davis for parking into the mix as they update the field plan. The question would be what type of impact the Rail Trail might have on the parking at Davis Field. The Commission felt they needed this information before they could respond to the Selectmen.

Paul stated that he would draft a letter to the Selectmen informing them of the Park and Recreation Commission’s concerns on too many unknowns at this time which impacted their ability to provide a complete response at this time. He will also include the Commission’s thoughts on the possibility of putting this question to the town, possibly in a town vote, to gauge the interest of the town in moving forward with this plan.

Skating at Featherland Field - Nancy McShea received an email from Mrs. Chinoy with concerns about the night time lighting at Featherland Field for the skating area in the winter and the added trash/alcohol that comes along with the activity.

Nancy assured Mr. and Mrs. Chinoy that lights on at Featherland are on all the time whether there is skating or not. They are more safety lights and would more than likely detract youth from hanging out in a lighted parking lot. They are on from dusk to dawn. Nancy also explained there have been two skate areas in the past, one for ice hockey and one for general skating, so the two skate areas are not new. The past winters have not been conducive to good skating, so both skate areas were not flooded.

Nancy did agree to contact the Park and Grounds staff and inquire about the trash, etc. in the parking lot. She also stated she would discuss the lights with them and see if a timer could be added so the lights on the skating rinks are shut off at 8:00pm.

Nancy also stated that if the Chinoy’s see activity at Featherland that is concerning, they should call the police and ask them to patrol the parking lot. Mrs. Chinoy stated she has done that before, and Nancy said she should still call the police and then let Nancy know if they are still having problems in the parking lot.

Misc – Nancy informed the Commission that she received a call from Bill Place regarding the fields and he suggested the possibility of replacing the artificial turf at Cutting, when it comes time, with a natural grass field. She found that surprising, but in light of the cost to replace the artificial turf, and where the funds would come from, it might be significantly less expensive to replace it with a grass field. Of course, the maintenance on the field would have to be done by the Parks and Grounds staff. This is off in the future, but she wanted to bring it to the Commissioners attention. The Commissioners then discussed the concern of replacing and funding all the artificial turf fields at the high school and the field at Cutting. Some Commissioners want to set up an account to collect fees/donations for future turf replacement costs. The Commission voted in the past to take \$5 dollars of the \$35 dollar field permit fee and place that in the field replacement account. Nancy stated that the Town Accountant did not approve of this action since it was not discussed before the new field fee was implemented. She said it would have to be made clear in all the Park and Recreation Field Permit documents how the fees will be collected and dispersed. In addition, separate accounts would have to be set up for donations and fees that would go into a field replacement account. All donations to the town have to be accepted by the Selectmen. Pat will discuss with the Town Accountant what type of accounts should be set up deposit funds for replacement of the turf fields.

Paul reported that the Gale study will cost approximately \$19,500 and should be completed by early spring.

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, February 27, 2012 at 6:30pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm