

Town of Sudbury
Park and Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2012
6:40p.m.-8:30p.m.

Present: Commissioners- Dick Williamson, Paul Griffin, Jim Marotta, Bobby Beagan, Dick Williamson
Guests: Nancy Kimble, Sue Pardus, Jeff Dade – Girls Softball
Gerald Quirk – LS School Committee

Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:40pm when the commission had a quorum.

Bobby Beagan welcomed Gerald Quirk to the Park & Rec Meeting as the representative from the LS School Committee.

Gerald Quirk introduced himself and said that he was happy to have the chance to meet with the Commission. He said that the LS School Committee is 1000 percent behind the softball project. He said that it is a good chance to open up the inter-municipal agreement for the Community Field and to consider expanding it. Gerald said that it will be important to include Lincoln in it.

Paul Griffin asked Gerald what part of Lincoln.

Gerald responded that involving the Lincoln school committee would make sense.

Sue Pardus mentioned that the softball group had spoken with the Lincoln CPA but Lincoln's deadline was earlier than the Sudbury CPA deadline so they didn't have time to make a proposal for Lincoln. Sue said it was discussed that Lincoln CPA may be able to help out on another project in the future due to the fact that they won't be helping out this upcoming fiscal year.

Gerald mentioned that all of the fields at LS have really been treated as if they've been under the inter-municipal agreement. He explained that the budget at LS is very, very tight. Gerald explained that they have been trying to work with Maureen Valente and the town to try and get some of their capital expenditures to be part of the town plan. Gerald said that they have to look anywhere and everywhere they can to try and find funds to try and keep up with LS' increasing enrollment and the fact that they have already laid off teachers in the past. Gerald said that as the park and rec representative he had been given the job of looking at the field usage and he said that they would like to possibly see a mechanism of getting some portion of the user group fees put into a revolving account or some other type of account that could be used to maintain the fields, etc.

Paul Griffin asked if the money would go into the general fund.

Gerald said he's not sure but that they do need to look at the fields as a potential source of revenue.

Paul G. explained to Gerald that the park & rec collects \$35 per user and that all of that money is spent to keep park & rec fields going. Paul said that the relationship between the town and LS and the field usage has been good and that it is better than before the school was built. LS used the town fields for 3 years while the school was being built and many user groups had to move things around in order to make LS usage a priority. LS was very appreciative of this and the relationship has been very good since.

Gerald pointed out that he was not attending the meeting tonight with any type of proposal but just wanted to open up the communication and start building the relationship. Gerald said that the pool is somewhat of an issue.

Paul G. stated that the \$15K that LS pays for lane usage is significantly less than others such as the Sudbury Swim Team. Paul explained that the pool is a discrete and separate entity and that without the current usage fees the pool will go under water and it will be closed.

Gerald also mentioned that the parents of the ultimate Frisbee group from LS pays fees to the town for the use of TiSales.

Paul G. said he was not aware they were paying fees.

Jim Marotta mentioned that the town's user groups and potentially the CPC are willing to fund lights at the community field and the softball field project at approximately \$450K. Jim wanted to know what that was worth to LS.

Gerald asked if we were making the fields at LS as a community resource.

Jim stated that the lights and softball field have a much bigger return than user fees.

Paul G. stated that we have a good relationship with LS and that we just need to figure out the agreement. He said that there is a tremendous appetite to give potentially several hundred thousand dollars for various projects. Paul said that the numbers in Gerald's field usage summary and potential revenue were not realistic at \$60/hr for the fields. Paul said that programs like girls lax and boys lax could never afford that and that the \$35 per user would never cover such a cost.

Gerald mentioned that there is the expense of maintenance to the fields and Gerald stated that we need to figure out the actual costs.

Jim asked if we really want to do this "tit for tat". Would LS school committee consider bringing in someone like Gale to estimate costs?

Gerald stated that they do not want to have to spend a lot of time and money trying to do it piece by piece but that opening up the fields a community resource may make sense.

Jim Marotta asked why LS hadn't gotten the numbers to Gale Associates when they were asked for them.

Gerald said he wasn't sure about the request from Gale and the information provided to him was something Nancy O'Neill and Scott Carpenter had worked on.

Dick stated that he was becoming concerned that trying to tackle the global problem of an agreement to cover all of the fields could jeopardize the softball project.

Bobby stated that he had that same fear.

Gerald stated that they appreciate all of the help from all of the donors and user group's etc.

Paul G. said that it would be a very hard sell to increase user fees when groups are helping fund the lights and softball field etc.

Gerald stated that it doesn't seem right that LS has to pay for the pool but that they give away use of the Turf 1 & 2 fields.

Paul G. stated that LS gets a great lane rate and it should be considered separate from the fields.

Dick stated that we have a problem of timing because we need an inter-municipal agreement in time for the CPC.

Paul G. stated that we will have to show that the agreement is a work in progress but that there is some time beyond the review dates of CPC to iron it all out.

Paul G. stated that the LS School Committee certainly wouldn't be happy if the town said they were going to start charging for the use of Featherland.

Paul G. mentioned that there was supposed to be a fund set up for the Community Field when it was built for which all rental fees would go into the fund and be saved towards costs. Paul G. asked if Gerald could look into that fund.

Gerald stated that he would inquire about the fund.

Bobby asked Gerald if he thought the school committee would consider the potential large funding from the town via the CPA as enough rather than getting into the weeds with user group fees and who pays for this or that.

Gerald raised the point that getting funds or donations is wonderful but that the worry is that there are costs to maintain the items and these costs have to be considered. Gerald said that LS does not just blindly accept donations of physical items that may need maintenance without coming up with a plan of how to fund the maintenance. Gerald stated that items like lights or a new softball field will increase the usage and therefore increase operating costs and those operating costs would have to be covered.

Jim asked Gerald if he could get back to the commission prior to December 5th regarding the softball field agreement.

Gerald said that he will pass it by the school committee to see if the agreement could be amended for the softball field and to continue working on the larger agreement to cover all fields and gyms.

The commission thanked Gerald for his time and his willingness to work with the town and the commission. Gerald said that he looked forward to working with commission and thanked the commission for their time and effort.

The softball folks and Gerald left the meeting.

The commissioners wrapped up the meeting by discussing who would do the presentation to the CPC. The commission decided that it may be best for Paul to do it.

Meeting was adjourned.

NOTE: No Meeting Minutes were voted on.