

Town of Sudbury
Park and Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 9, 2012

Present: Commissioners- Paul Griffin, Jim Marotta, Bobby Beagan, Dick Williamson, Nancy McShea-P&R Director, Guests: Bob Haarde – Bd of Selectmen, Nancy Kimble, Sue Pardus, Jeff Dade – Girls Softball, Pat Brown, SYSA- Sandy Moore, Bob Lee, Gale Associates – Bill Seymour, Sean Boyd

Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed but no vote was taken to approve them during the meeting. Minutes will be voted on at a future meeting.

Gerald Quirk scheduled to speak at this meeting did not attend.

Girls Softball – presented to the Commission their concerns regarding the state of the LSRHS girls' softball field. It has an uneven playing surface, which the school has been aware of for years, but they have continued to use the field. The recent study by Gale Associates has confirmed that the field is unsafe and it is a potential Title 9 issue. The Girls Softball representatives informed the Commission that they started fundraising to help with renovation of the field thinking that they needed to raise about \$50,000. They have close to \$35,000, but draft report prepared by Gale Associates estimated that the cost to repair the softball field would be closer to \$280,000. It was thought that requesting CPC funds would be the way to go to bring the field up to the quality the girls deserve. They were not sure how to go about requesting the funds and if Park and Recreation should be leading the request.

Paul responded by explaining the request process for CPC Funds. He also explained that the LSRHS fields are handled differently and the way the high school football field was able to be renovated using CPC funds was by working with the Town and Recreation Department to develop a joint use policy for the renovated field. If the Commission decided to support the renovation of the high school softball field requesting the use of CPC funds it may make sense to follow the football field model.

Nancy McShea commented that she felt that all high school fields should be shared by the youth groups and high school students.

The Featherland softball field is a good field, but not used much by girls' softball.

Gale Associates Field Needs Presentation - Bill Seymour presented the update to the 2004 Master Field Plan-Athletic Field Need Assessment.

Bill explained the process of the study and how the data received from the user groups was used to develop the draft report. The data indicated that Sudbury has 9086 scheduled events on all fields. His main concern was that Gale may not have all the usage information from the user groups. He believes the numbers are shy and the numbers drive the data (or the story).

Bill explained the project approach and how they start with a facilities inventory and then assessment based on the requirements from the user groups. The report indicates that we do have a need for some fields. Some of our fields are over used and some should not be used due to condition.

The attendees asked questions throughout the presentation and at the end Gale Associates presented 3 strategies for field improvement. The first strategy included development at the Melone Property and Gale estimated the

cost would be approximately \$5 million; the second did not include Melone, but development at Davis, for an estimated cost of \$5.1 million and the third included Melone and Davis, but no synthetic turf for an estimated cost of \$6.6 million.

Gale estimated the field development would take place over the FY14 through FY18 years.

Bill Seymour estimated that the cost to replace the turf fields in town would be \$375,000 to \$400,000.

Nancy asked if Bill would include something in the Master Plan Update stating what will happen to the fields if the town decides to do nothing.

Bill will make corrections/updates to the draft report. He will wait to hear from Paul/Nancy and user groups on any updates on their use information. Once that information is received he will submit a final report.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.