

Town of Sudbury
Park and Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 17, 2012
6:30p.m.-8:30p.m.

Present: Commissioners- Todj Gozdeck (until 8pm), Paul Griffin, Jim Marotta, Bobby Beagan, Dick Williamson (until 7:30pm), Guests: Nancy Kimble, Sue Pardus, Jeff Dade – Girls Softball, Maureen Valente – Town Manager

Sue Pardus presented some notes and numbers to the commission related to the softball field project. Sue pointed out that anyone can request CPA funds from the CPC.

Paul Griffin asked who would be the primary user group of the softball field.

Nancy Kimball stated the primary user group would be Sudbury Girls' Softball.

Jeff Dade stated that Chris Morely of the CPC said that the more people you get behind your proposal the better you are. Jeff stated that ideally the softball project would have the park & recreation commission's support.

Nancy Kimball stated that girls' softball would not be the only user group benefiting from this project but so would Little League.

Paul Griffin stated that the softball project has to fit into the park & recreation's overall plan and Paul expressed concern of having two requests going to CPC in parallel.

Maureen Valente stated that CPC would be looking to see if the project had endorsements from town committees.

Paul Griffin stated that his worry is that the commission just received a lot of information from the Gale study and about the softball project and that in order to be able to argue and defend a proposal for CPA funding we would need to show a larger plan of which the softball project is a piece of that plan.

Todj Gozdeck asked what the likelihood of Lincoln stepping up with some funding.

Nancy Kimball stated that Lincoln has no softball field.

Sue Pardus said that Lincoln has been discussing it recently.

Paul Griffin stated that the CPC has limited funds and that the Gale Study shows a number of needs.

Sue Pardus stated that the Gale Study shows in all three scenarios that the softball project is the first step.

Paul Griffin stated that taking the municipality issue out of the discussion that the project would have to benefit Sudbury for CPC to ok funds.

Nancy Kimball stated that men's softball would benefit as well because the girls would not be having to ask for Featherland as much.

Paul Griffin stated that LS will be benefiting from this and will not be putting money in.

Jim Marotta stated that the commission went to the CPC to discuss Melone feasibility study in fall of 2010 and the CPC said that Melone needed to be looked at for more than just recreation. We then started discussing the Gale Study in Fall 2011 and it has taken a year to get to this point. Jim pointed out that the commission hasn't started discussing the big picture.

Dick Williamson said the timeline for CPC is Nov. 2nd and that we should have time to look at the softball draft prior to November 2nd.

Paul Griffin stated that he envisioned asking for funds for the design and preparation of Davis possibly.

Jim Marotta restated that we need to look at the big picture.

Paul Griffin said that we may need to look at this in a phased approach.

Nancy Kimball said that that the commission could look at it as the softball group taking the first phase off of its hands.

Jim Marotta asked what numbers we would be looking at.

Jeff Dade said that the numbers will not be as high as the Gale estimates.

Nancy Kimball stated that they had received a partial estimate from Kevin

Jim Marotta asked if these were prevailing wage numbers.

Maureen Valente stated that if a project is funded by private funds then you don't need to put project out for public bids at prevailing wages but if you use CPA funds it becomes public and you would then be subject to prevailing wages.

Jim Marotta stated that you should make sure any of the numbers used are prevailing wage numbers.

Sue Pardus asked Maureen if the DPW could help.

Maureen stated that the DPW's busiest time of the year is the summer season. She said that she could talk to Bill Place but that he may not have the equipment needed for this project.

Dick pointed out that you need to do some guessing at how much CPC will be able to provide.

Maureen Valente stated that an agreement with LS would be required.

Maureen stated that town council would have the agreement for the Community Field.

Maureen asked if the softball group had approached the Sudbury Foundation.

Nancy Kimball said that they had considered it but missed the date.

Maureen stated that she believes they had given money to the little league at one point.

Jim Marotta asked the softball group what they were looking for from us.

Jeff Dade stated that they were looking for us to show support for the project or possibly be the submitter.

Paul Griffin stated that he believed the CPA funding proposal would be better coming from the commission. He stated that Little League has already offered 100K to do the work to convert fields to multi-use. Other groups have been proposing various ideas.

Jeff Dade stated that what make this project different are the gender and safety issues.

Nancy Kimball stated that she would expect Mike Walsh to be behind the project.

Maureen Valente stated that the town has discussed doing the work at Davis Field for years and that many support it because it already has sunken costs there and a lot of the work could be done in house.

Jim Marotta said that we can come up with a structure for making this happen.

Paul Griffin said that looking at the big picture could include the softball project, preparing Davis field and putting men's softball over at Davis with a new men's softball field. Paul said it will be important to ask the CPC for funds that benefit many groups.

Jeff Dade pointed out that Babe Ruth has a need for a 90ft diamond.

Paul Griffin said to Maureen that the commission has enthusiastically been looking at Davis and that he's glad to hear that town is behind it.

Maureen said that looking at Feeley would be beneficial as well.

Paul Griffin asked Maureen what do we need to do.

Maureen said that you need to come up with your best guess at the costs of your projects. Maureen said that she does see some separation between the softball project and the other projects. Maureen said to follow up with Sudbury Foundation.

Sue Pardus asked if the commission would help them with the proposal. She stated that they would be working on their plan and meeting with Kevin Mosley at LS.

Paul Griffin said to Sue that they should not submit to CPC without talking to us first.

Paul Griffin said to Maureen that he would like to open up the dialog about user fees because they seem to be rather expensive and Paul stated that folks worry that the user fees are paying for other stuff.

Maureen stated that the town needs to look at the whole concept.

Jim Marotta asked if the commission could operate autonomously.

Maureen said that the town owns the fields and that there would be insurance issues etc. She said you could look at the Town Charter.

Jim Marotta stated that he wanted to know how Wayland was able to do a special account but that were not able to.

Paul Griffin said that we have to save for replacing the turf.

Maureen stated that to be a real enterprise fund that it pays for salaries, etc. and that it is possible to build up a reserve within the enterprise fund.

Paul Griffin stated that it needs to be dedicated to the turf replacement.

Maureen stated that she had just heard of the \$5 portion of the user fees being dedicated to a turf fund when she got back from vacation last week.

Jim Marotta asked Maureen how long it would take to get an answer about the account.

Maureen said that they can get an answer next week when Nancy comes back.

Paul Griffin stated that we have this looming date and softball is getting their numbers together so the commission needs to come up with a plan.

Jim stated that we need to ask Gale if his numbers are prevailing wage.

Paul said that a proposal to CPC could show manageable chunks of a long term plan that could include, for instance, the LS softball field, the grading and prep of Davis, a men's softball field, and multi-purpose fields at Featherland, etc.

Jim stated that we definitely need to come up with a good plan and some numbers.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm