

November 30, 2015

Park and Recreation Commission Meeting

Jim Marotta, Mike Ensley, Bobby Beagan, Paul Griffin, Dick Williamson

Minutes from the last meeting were approved with corrections, 5-0.

Recreation Programs/Pool Fees Proposed Increases for FY17 - Increases in the Recreation, Field and Pool fees prepared by the Interim Recreation Director, Amber Comeau and John Barrett were distributed to the Park and Recreation Commissioners. The major reason for the suggested increase is the fact that the minimum wage increase is going to \$10 an hour January 1, 2016. The Commissioners felt the wage increase was an issue but felt they needed more information regarding how the increase in fees would impact the current revenue/expense numbers in all accounts. They stated they would have liked to see a more formal presentation from John and Amber stating why the increases were needed and the impact the minimum wage increase will have on their budgets. This request will be relayed to the Interim Recreation/Pool Director.

Charter Discussion - The Commission discussed the desire to have a Charter for the Park and Recreation Commission. Mike Ensley spoke with Melissa Rodrigues, the new Town Manager, regarding this subject, and she offered to come to the next Park and Recreation meeting. Jim M. asked if other Park and Recreation Commissions had Charters and also asked what the Commission wanted their Charter to include. It was stated that the Commission would like to recommend ideas and actions to the Town Manager on topics of personnel and finances regarding Recreation, Field and Pool activities. Jim stated that the Town Manager Act supersedes municipal law and currently the Town Manager has the final decision about what Elected Town Boards are responsible for in regard to Town policy.

Haskell Field Maintenance – Commission discussed the condition of Haskell field and the cost estimate to have an outside company maintain the field. Mike and Bobby received a quote from the company Youth Baseball uses at Featherland.

Planning for CPC and CIAC – Bobby Beagan reported that Park and Recreation Commission is on the CPC agenda for Wednesday, Dec 2 to discuss the Davis Field CPC request and the Featherland Tennis Court renovations.

Jim stated the new plan for Davis is to keep it open but make it more useful for youth sports events. He stated there may not be a need to go before Conservation if the plan does not impact the wetlands. The other CPC submission is the plan to replace the tennis courts at Featherland. It was unclear if an actual quote was received for the tennis courts renovation.

Bobby Beagan expressed concern about presenting the two projects together. The Commissioners discussed the possibility of removing the tennis courts from the CPC presentation and just plan for that request to go before the Capital Committee. After discussion, it was decided that the Commission would present the Davis plan to the CPC committee and the Featherland tennis courts would be a capital request.

Paul stated the revised plan for Davis Field has removed the baseball fields, parking, and has a smaller footprint for the actual rectangle field. The Commission discussed the expected concern for a traffic study and the contamination that has been discussed before in regard to Davis Field. Discussion on how to prepare for the questions regarding these concerns followed. Bobby stated he felt all the expenses regarding the project should be clearly stated in the presentation and pictures of Davis to help show why the renovation at Davis is being requested would help in the presentation.

Misc. - Mike Ensley brought up the concern for lighting at the parking lots of Haskell and Lower Featherland. There needs to be better lighting at the crosswalk at Haskell. Bobby Beagan asked about putting some garbage cans back on Haskell field for the winter. He said there is only one and that makes it difficult to keep the field clean during the winter months. This concern will be referred to the interim Park and Recreation Director.

Adjourned 8:30pm