

Recreation Commission Meeting November 19, 2015

Attendees: Bobby Beagan, Mike Ensley, Jim Marotta, Dick Williamson, Paul Griffin, Laura Lunig

Guests: Mike Walsh, Sudbury Youth Baseball, Nanette, George and Jack LaRochelle

The meeting was called to order at 6:33PM. Mr. Beagan approved the minutes from October 5, 2015 and October 26, 2015 pending corrections. Dick Williamson seconded the motion. Laura Lunig, who was recording, would pass the corrections on to Pat Haberstroh for final editing.

Mr. Marotta introduced Laura Lunig who is currently serving as Interim Park, Recreation and Aquatic Director for the Department while the Town conducts a search for a new full time director. When asked for a brief history, Ms. Lunig stated that she is a newly retired Recreation professional after serving the Town of Concord for 27 years, from her most recent position as Recreation Director. She currently works as a part-time manager for the Town of Lexington in the new Lexington Community Center. She was asked to serve by Maryanne Bilodeau, Assistant Town Manager, until the position is filled which is estimated to be mid January.

Public Comment: Mike Walsh presented the current proposal for the baseball upgrade for Featherland. The recommendations for the renovations of the existing tennis courts were also discussed at this time. Present from the community were Rajan Vekitachalan, Shu Ping Zhang, and Jim Cavanaugh.

Mr. Walsh presented a diagram of Featherland delineating the removal of specific trees. (See attached). Trees 6, 7, 8, and 10 would be removed to increase the size of the field. The height of the right field fence would be 8 ft. and black. The left field fence would be 4 ft. There was an expressed concern from the community regarding the cutting of tree #10, which is an old, large tree specifically from an individual who arrived later, name unknown. Mr. Walsh stated that it was not an option to move the backstop back and that this was an attempt to meet the needs of the 6th and 7th graders in the community. He also stated that he was not able to compromise on keeping tree #10. The question arose regarding additional plantings along the field. Mr. Walsh stated that the Baseball organization would pick up the cost of the tree removal with Bill Place's involvement, additional fencing, and the skinning the field which was estimated to be approximately \$10,000. Mr. Walsh clarified that Baseball Youth Organization was not responsible for the additional planting around the field. Mr. Beagan felt that the Town would pick up the cost for the plantings as they have been done so in the past. It was noted that the irrigation would not have been altered.

Upon determining there was no further discussion, Mr. Marotta called for a motion. The following motion was proposed by Mr. Beagan: That there would be a

50/70 modification made to the field at Featherland, which would include a 4 ft. height fence to match centerfield (black) that there would be the removal of trees # 6,7, 8, and 10, and the costs of this project would be the responsibility of the Baseball Commission. The motion passed 4 to 1. Mr. Williamson was reluctant to approve the motion without a plan for the additional plantings.

The Featherland tennis courts were discussed. It was determined that \$160,000 is needed for the necessary renovations. A capital request for CPC funds, which is meeting on December 2, 2015, was discussed. The possibility of converting one the four courts into a multi-use court tennis/basketball court may be considered in the proposal. Further research is needed. As to whether renovations of 4 tennis courts were needed, it was noted that Bosse rents the LSRHS tennis courts in the summer and are not available to the public during that time.

A proposal of a Sudbury Remote Control Club was by Nanette and George La Rochelle of Sudbury. Jack, along with his mother, presented several vehicles as examples of what would be in use and were looking for a possible venue to share the interest with others. Suggestion were made of how one could market a “new club” and where they might meet. Realizing that the winter brochure was already in print, it was suggested that they try to get something in the spring brochure. Ms. Lunig suggested that they should get in touch with Mark Simmons, the Youth Coordinator, who can assist with rental of the gym and possible marketing.

Capital projects were discussed. The plan involving of the grading of Davis Field is in need of additional capital funding since the timing/approval of the Parc Grant will not be an option. This project may be presented at the December CPC meeting and will be on the agenda in the next Recreation Commission meeting to determine capital planning relative to CPC and CAIC capital requests. It was also brought up that Fairbanks building was in need of a roof.

Mr. Marotta shared with the Commission information regarding a meeting with Metrowest YMCA. He emphasized that this was a preliminary discussion and much more research was needed. He discussed the marketing model of the YMCA citing their need for demographics in and outside of the Sudbury community. The conversation was exploratory in nature as a possible alternative to the \$30 million proposal, which has been presented by the Community Center Task Force. When Ms. Lunig asked about the coexisting relationships between YMCAs and Recreation Departments in various towns, Mr. Marotta stated that some Recreation Departments work with the YMCA, while others do not. Ms. Lunig shared that it was her experience that YMCA's can compete for services with existing Recreation Departments. It was stated that a representative from the Recreation Department would be included in future meetings with the YMCA.

Mr. Beagan raised the concern of the condition of Haskell Field. Though part of the field was rested for a least 1 year, it was felt that the condition of the field was still

subpar. He proposed remediation by an outside turf management vendor and said he would forward the quote, just under \$10,000, to Ms. Lunig for review. He also shared that he has not received any response back from Soccer when requesting contributing funds towards the improvement of the field.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00PM.