

DRAFT

Park and Recreation Commission Meeting
February 16, 2016

Attendees: Bobby Beagan, Jim Marotta, Paul Griffin, Dick Williamson, Mike Ensley; Guests: Melissa Murphy-Rodriguez – Town Manager, Pat Brown – Board of Selectman, Jeff Winn-candidate for Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes from January 13, 2016 approved 4-0.

Public Comment: None

Jim Marotta introduced Kayla McNamara the new Director of Park, Recreation and the Atkinson Pool. Jim stated that everyone was excited to have Kayla as part of the Recreation Department. The Commissioners offered their help and suggested that a field meeting be held in the near future to discuss field requests. Mike Ensley also suggested that Kayla might want to set up meetings with the various youth groups in the next few weeks to see what their needs are for the upcoming seasons.

FY 17 Enterprise Budgets: Melissa Murphy-Rodrigues, Town Manager, distributed a presentation on both the Pool and Field Enterprise Budgets. She discussed the need to increase fees and her thoughts that both the Field and Pool fees should be increased a certain percentage every year. Melissa expressed concern that the field permit fee had not been increased in a number of years. She also suggested that Kayla look to see if it is better to charge by the hour for field use instead of by person. Kayla and Melissa will present both an hourly and per person rate study on the fields. She stated she didn't want to have to tell Kayla to stop spending if the funds are not sufficient to support the Enterprise budgets. Melissa stated she thought they may be able to phase in the increases over the next few years rather than one large increase, so it won't be as painful for the user groups. Kayla stated she found the current field permit confusing and will be creating a more structured permit and new policies.

Melissa and Kayla will present the information on the rate study at the next Park and Recreation Commission meeting. Paul questioned why the Field Enterprise Budget covers half of the four Park and Grounds staff and \$7,000 dollars of part time summer help. Bobby B. expressed concern about the quality of the Haskell field. He said he would like to look at having the maintenance done by an outside vendor. Melissa will ask Bill Place, DPW Dir., to attend the next Park and Recreation Commission meeting to address these concerns.

The Commissioners expressed concern about the lack of a capital plan for the fields and replacement of the artificial turf fields. Kayla will work with the users groups and the Commission to establish a capital plan as she moves forward with her new position.

Mike Ensley asked if the Park and Recreation Commission represented the residents of Sudbury or the Park and Recreation Department. Melissa responded that their allegiance should actually be to both the citizens and department.

Rugby - Mike Ensley stated that there is a group interested in starting a rugby user group in town. It would be both girls and boys and would be looking for some field space.

Fairbank Community Center Task Force – The next meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2016. It was stated that if the new community center is going to be approved everyone needs to spread the word about the center and get people interested. Jim M. asked if the scope of the contract for Ballard and King had been defined. The Commission is not comfortable with the proposed operating expense numbers. The Task Force will need to present to the Fin Com and Selectmen the Town Article, which will need to include costs, before the Town Meeting so both groups can review and form their opinions. It was stated that the Article to repair the current roof was pulled. It was thought that if needed a Special Town Meeting could be held to ask for money to repair the roof.

Dick W. said that design of the new center includes the administration offices for the Sudbury School System. At this point there isn't anywhere else in town to relocate them, so they would have to be included in the plan for the new building.

The Commission stated the real concern is the overall expense of a new facility along with the annual operating costs. It is still unclear where the funds will come from and how much revenue will be needed to operate a new facility.

YMCA - Jim M. stated the Commission was stepping back from the YMCA. The initial intent was to see how the YMCA could work with Recreation and the Senior Center to provide programs as an alternative to building a new, expensive facility. At this time, there is no more discussion with the YMCA.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.