

Draft

May 23, 2016

Park and Recreation Commission Minutes

Attendees: Jim Marotta, Bobby Beagan, Mike Ensley, Dick Williamson; Kayla McNamara- Park and Rec Director; Guests: Carlo Leopoldo, Peter Soule, Men's Softball; Hayley Barnes, Tricia Turner, Mary Hyer; Jim Kelly; Bob Lee, SYSA

Minutes from April 25, 2016 approved with corrections.

**Publicly Comment** - Hayley Barnes discussed her concern regarding field permit fees charged for high school teams who play and practice over the summer. She is concerned about the high fees and said the previous Park and Recreation Director allowed the teams to pay by the hour which cost them \$100 a game. This year they have been told they need to pay per player which is more expensive for the teams. Hayley said she would like to find a field to play at for free but at the minimum she would like to keep the fee the same as last year. Kayla McNamara explained that she was following the existing policy for renting the fields. She also stated she is in the process of reviewing the current policy; but would be fine grandfathering them in for this season.

A motion was made to grandfather in the flat fee (\$50 dollar per hour fee) from last year for the summer high school soccer leagues for this summer. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

**Men's Softball Discussion** - Kayla stated she and the Town Manager received a complaint about noise and drinking at the Featherland softball field by a resident who lives near the field. Jim Marotta stated the police have also been contacted and both Kayla and Chief Nix have reviewed the complaints and concerns of the resident. Carlo Lepordo and Peter Soule stated they were aware of the individual who was complaining and it has happened in the past. They stated they have always addressed the concern. Kayla said she has reviewed the audio messages with the police and they have no issues. When the police were dispatched to check on the complaint they found no violation. Kayla invited the resident who voiced the complaints to attend the Park and Recreation Commission meeting; she did not attend. The Commission stated they had no issues with men's softball, but suggested they continue to let their members know of any concerns from residents.

**Haskell Field Conditions** - Bob Lee, SYSA, said they are concerned about the overall condition, the weeds, the holes and areas around the goals. Kayla attended one of the recent SYSA meetings and discussed the field conditions. She discussed with them the opportunity to use Arbortuf to treat the field, SYSA decided not to split the fee with Boys Lacrosse. Bob Lee stated that SYSA was concerned about committing to this service and then having to pay for it every year. Bob said having Kayla attend the SYSA meeting helped the Board understand the Field Enterprise Fund and the overall situation with the fields.

Jim Marotta stated that both Kayla and the Melissa, the Town Manager, will be reviewing the current field policy and fees. He stated there may be an increase in fees after their review is completed.

The Commissioners agreed that there should be an ongoing plan for managing the care of the fields cared for by the Park and Grounds staff. This plan can then be communicated to the user groups so they know what to expect and will show how the field permit fees are being used.

Bobby Beagan stated he felt the Field staff should do more and be aware of the ongoing conditions of the fields and not wait for the user groups to alert them to problems on the fields. The Commission would like to see a mowing, maintenance plan established for all the fields. Kayla stated that Chris and his staff have done a good job with the available funds in the Field Enterprise Fund. She also stated it was tough to rest areas of the fields with the increased usage.

**Fairbank Task Force Update** - Jim Kelly stated the Task Force is restructuring and is now looking for 2 representatives from the major stake holders in the proposed new facility. The groups are Park and Recreation, Senior Center, Board of Selectmen, Building, and Fin Com.

Dick Williamson stated he would like to stay on the task force. Mike Ensley stated he would be willing to step up and Jim Marotta stated he too might be interested. Jim/Kayla said Christine Hogan agreed to stay on to help with the Pool issues and will work with Kayla. Jim is still concerned about the Ballard and King numbers. Jim Kelly felt the plan should be to work hard on the numbers and plan over the summer to be ready for the Town Meeting in the fall.

Bobby Beagan questioned if, based on the recent negative votes on the town articles, the task force is going down the wrong path. He questioned if the residents would ever vote for a new facility or would it be better to pursue a renovation of the existing building.

Jim Marotta suggested it would be better to involve a new 3rd party with fresh eyes involved in the project.

After discussion, a motion was made for Jim Marotta and Bobby Beagan to represent the Park and Recreation Commission on the Fairbank Task Force Committee. The motion received a second and more discussion occurred. Jim stated he is concerned about the productivity of the Task Force. Bobby stated he would rather stay on the CPC. The motion was amended for Mike Ensley to replace Bobby Beagan as one of the representative for the Task Force. That motion received a second and the motion passed with a 3 to 1 vote. One-member abstained.

Mike Ensley and Jim Marotta will represent the Park and Recreation Commission on the Fairbank Task Force.

**Youth Baseball Improvements** - Jim Marotta informed the Commission that Youth Baseball wanted to make some improvements at Haskell Field and Upper Featherland. Youth Baseball will be paying for any costs associated with the improvements.

The improvements are as follows; replace the temporary fence at Haskell, perform maintenance on the warning tracks at Featherland and Feeley field, and add another batting cage at Haskell field. Kayla stated she will be meeting with Mike Walsh at Haskell field to see if there is room for the additional batting cage and make sure it will not impact the layout of the other fields at Haskell.

**FY18 Planning** - The Commission discussed the following items for FY18; 1. Field Space/Field improvements, (Davis Field is also still an option and the traffic study could be done using the Friends money, once the Friends group is active again.), renovation of Featherland Tennis Courts, renovation of the existing playground surface at Haskell so the entire playground has the poured in play surface. Jim mentioned he did speak with LSRHS and the Boosters to see if any funds might be available to put towards the tennis courts since they are used by the tennis teams for games and practice. Dick offered

that the CPC also stated they would rather see the funds for the tennis courts come from CPC rather than a capital request.

The Commission still questioned the actual daily activity at the tennis courts and it was suggested that perhaps there were some type of cameras that could be set up to check activity.

Kayla updated the Commission on her activities since the last meeting.

Bobby Beagan asked if anyone knew the status of Mara Huston, the newly elected Commission member. Jim reported that she had 30 days to get the Board of Selectmen to put the Special Municipal Employee on the agenda. The no vote taken at the last Bd of Selectmen meeting was a vote that they did not want to make any changes to the existing policy.

Mike Ensley requested a review of the budget at the next Commission meeting.

Meeting was adjourned 8:30pm