

August 29th, 2016 Commission Minutes

Bobby Beagan, Dick Williamson, Mike Ensley, Jim Marotta, Kayla McNamara, Aquatics, Park and Recreation Director.

Minutes from June 28th, accepted with corrections 4-0.

Public Comment: None

Department Update: Kayla informed the Commissioners of issues with dog walkers at Davis and permitted groups using the fields. The Animal Control Officer (who is shared with Wayland) had to be called and will continue to check on Davis. Kayla also gave an update on summer Camps and Summer programs. She informed the Commissioners that the Asst. Aquatic Dir and Program Coordinator had resigned. She will be filling these positions as soon as possible along with the part time Preschool Director. Kayla and other part time aquatic supervisors will be covering the Asst. Aquatic Dir hours. The pool is currently closed for summer shut down and will reopen on September 6th. Bobby Beagan asked for a department organization chart. He felt this would help the Commissioners understand how the department operates. Bobby also asked Kayla about the summer camp program. Kayla responded it was a difficult summer based on decisions that were made in the past., especially the decision to have camp run for 8 weeks. This made it very difficult to staff and caused problems throughout the summer. Kayla updated the Commissioners on the FY16 financials, but will give a more complete update after the auditors review the end of year statements. Kayla did state they will need to revisit the increase in the field permit fee since the Field Enterprise Fund was underfunded by about \$55,000 in FY16 and retained earnings had to be used. Kayla also informed she is in the process of switching the departments software in time for fall registration.

Capital Requests FY18: Jim stated the Town's capital plan process is confusing. In the past, he felt it wasn't time well spent. The Commissioners discussed the money expected to come in from the Meadow Walk and how that may impact the capital requests from Park and Recreation.

Featherland Field Tennis courts were discussed as a possible capital request, but it was thought it might be better as a CPC request. The Commissioners expressed concerns about the actual use of the courts. It was stated that often the Feeley tennis courts appear to be underused. Dick commented that assurances were given to residents in the past that the Featherland courts would be replaced. The Commissioners stated that they did support replacement in the past, but the Town did not pass the request to spend money on replacing the courts.

Kayla stated a few areas of the SMILE playground have become a safety concern due to the fact that the entire playground was not originally the pour and play surface. Funding constraints caused the previous the surface to be a mix of wood chips, pour and play and black top for easy wheel chair access. Fundraising for new surface at the playground will be done with the Park and Recreation Halloween 5K in October and the SMILE 5K in November.

Kayla stated she continues to get more requests for fields than she can fill. She said it would be great to have lights at Cutting. Jim said it would probably be easier to get lights passed on Turf 1 and Turf 2 at LSRHS.

Jim felt the Commissioners should start to focus on how the money \$500,000 (from the Meadow Walk project) which will be paid in two installments might be used. Mike added they may want to go back and take a look at the Melone properties as a potential new field area. Bobby felt they may have to spend some of the funds on Haskell field since it is in such poor shape.

Jim offered to work on a position statement from the Commission on the capital projects for the next Commission meeting.

Potential projects include the Haskell playground, additional field space by adding lights at Turf 1 and Turf 2 or Cutting, replacing the Cutting turf, work at Haskell Field, improve Davis Field and possibly the

Commissioners also discussed the possibility of preparing the paperwork for a PARC Grant again.

Fairbank Task Force - Mike and Jim are the Park and Recreation Commission reps on the Task Force with Kayla. Pat Brown is the chair of the Committee.

The discussion of the building centers on the need for shared space which will cut down on the size of the building and the overall dollar amount. Still need to address the concern that Park and Recreation is expected to pay for most of the new building. Kayla said she has a meeting with Deb Galloway, to discuss the need for shared space.

Jim said he will work on a statement from the Commission regarding ideas for the new Fairbank building.

32 Mary Catherine Lane: The Commission has no interest in 32 Mary Catherine Lane.

Next meeting is scheduled for Sept 12th at 6:30pm.