

DRAFT

October 30, 2017

Park and Recreation Commission Meeting

James Marotta, Mara Huston, Michael Ensley, Bobby Beagan, Dick Williamson (arrived 6:55pm) Kayla McNamara, Guests: Christine Hogan, Jean Nam, Lisa Kouchakdjian, Kate Marchand, Vona Hill, Marianne Bilodeau, Asst Town Manager

Minutes - will be reviewed at next meeting

Public Comment - Vona Hill, Red Zone Youth Football, stated she has run her flag football camp on the Sudbury fields for two seasons. Her youth group meets the requirements of a Sudbury youth league since she has over 80% of her participants living in Sudbury. She has had difficulty in the past getting fields in a timely manner even though she gets her request in well before the deadline, she is not viewed as a town league and has to wait until other requests are filled. Michael Ensley suggested to Vona that she request to be on the next Park and Recreation agenda and the Commission will vote on her request.

Haskell/School Playgrounds - Michael expressed his concerns regarding the safety of the Haskell playground. Kayla stated the playground was inspected recently and all issues noted are fixed. Michael asked about the expense estimate for Haskell playground renovations since he was not at the last meeting. Jean Nam stated she would send him the proposal for the school playgrounds, which includes comments on Haskell repairs.

Feeley Field - Kate Marchand questioned the Commission on the status of the plans to relocate the Route 20 Fire Station during the renovation. She stated she has not received any response from emails to the Parks and Grounds and Fire Chief. The Commission offered they might be waiting on the December 9 vote to see if the residents approve the project, but will follow up with them to get an answer.

Department Update - Kayla reported on the status of the winter brochure and the successful fall 5k/fun run. The report on the turf fields is included with the minutes. Michael Ensley stated he still feels Cutting is unsafe and feels there should be a regular maintenance schedule for the turf fields. Jim Marotta questioned if the Town should purchase equipment to clean and maintain the four turf fields in Town.

Kayla reported that she is working with the Sudbury Public Schools on transitioning the Fourth Grade Odyssey Event to a Recreation program. The Superintendent has decided that the Odyssey program no longer fits in with the school curriculum. Spring 2018 will be the last year for the Odyssey program in the schools and the Superintendent contacted Kayla to see if Park and Recreation would be interested in offering it as a program. Michael Ensley stated he was pleased that Park and Recreation is helping out, but feels it should stay with the school.

Kayla informed the Commission she was having difficulty getting Youth Football to pay for their field permit. Jim Marotta questioned the payment requirements, deadlines etc. Mara offered that perhaps the Commission should invite Youth Football to a Commission meeting to discuss the payment issues.

Kayla reported on the quarterly financials for the Pool and Field Enterprise Funds. Michael handed out his own spreadsheet with data he would like to see reported. Jim Marotta asked if this data was easy to access. Kayla stated she would review the template and see how easy it is to access the data requested.

Michael asked for a salary breakdown for the Field Enterprise Fund. He would like to know what the Park and Grounds employees are really doing on the fields. He stated he feels there is an inequity in assigning fees to the youth groups.

Park and Recreation Charter - Michael stated he feels Park and Recreation Commission should be more than a policy board. Marianne B. sent Michael information on the Commission's charter, which includes setting policy, adapting guidelines, setting fees, and authorizing programs.

Dick Williamson stated he feels the Commission should be reviewing budget issues.

Michael will invite the Town Manager to the next Commission Meeting to discuss this topic further and get her view on it.

Policy - Michael stated he would like to review the operation of the Field Enterprise Fund. He stated that Cutting field will require new turf every 10 to 12 years and the current Stabilization fund cannot assist in the funding for that need. He proposed that half of the estimated \$200,000 collected from permit fees be deposited into the Stabilization Fund and the other half deposited in the Field Enterprise Fund to maintain the fields. Michael quoted a statement from the previous Town Manager, made at a Massachusetts Municipal Meeting, regarding the Park and Grounds salaries in the Field Enterprise Fund and how user fees pays for the salaries to maintain the Town's athletic fields. He stated the salaries of the Park and Grounds staff should be funded by the Town budget.

Michael also stated the Commission should still plan to submit an article for new turf at Cutting field at the spring Town Meeting. He feels LSRHS will also submit an article for renovation of the Community Field. If agreeable, he said it would be better if a combined article at the Town meeting.

Maryanne stated that a majority vote at Town meeting is required to put money in the Stabilization fund and a 2/3rds vote is required to take money out of the fund.

The Commission also discussed new land acquisition and looking at renovations at Davis Field to make that field more useable for sports played on rectangular fields. Michael discussed coming up with new ideas to fund the Stabilization Fund. Michael also stated he would like to see first payment of \$250,000 from development of the Meadowwalk site put in the Stabilization Fund. The second payment of \$250,000 is expected in 2019. The Stabilization Funds along with Town funds would be used to renovate Cutting field and the LSRHS field.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.