

November 30, 2017
Park and Recreation Commission Meeting

Michael Ensley, Mara Huston, Dick Williamson, Jim Marotta, and Bobby Beagan (7:00pm),
Kayla McNamara, Guest: Dan Nason, Dir DPW, Vona Hill, Lisa Kouchakdjian, Joyce Minkoff,
Suzy Malone

Minutes from the September 25, and October 30 meeting accepted with corrections 4-0

Public Comment: Joyce Minkoff, President – Friends of the Jean Lind Teen Center, attended to discuss the concern about comments made regarding a Facebook post that stated Park and Recreation would be closing the Teen Center due to poor attendance. Joyce stated the Friends are working with the Teen Center Director to find new ways to encourage teenagers to attend.

Kayla stated the post was false and the Teen Center is not closing. She said over the past several years the Town's financial support for the Teen Center has decreased and now the revenue brought in by attendance has to cover the operational expenses. She is working with the new Youth Coordinator, Keven Sugermeyer, to see how they can attract more teens to attend to make sure that the Teen Center is not losing money.

Jim expressed concern that another Facebook post had incorrect information.

Flag Football - Vona Hill requested her flag football organization be considered a Sudbury youth group since 80% of her participants live in Sudbury. Kayla stated Ms. Hill's group meets the requirements. Commissioners discussed non-profit and for profit groups and how they should be handled. Jim Marotta stated the Commission should follow the current Field Policy and wait to make any changes regarding profit and non-profit groups when the Commission revisits the Field Reservation Policy. The Commission approved Ms. Hill's request to be viewed as a Sudbury youth group and receive the same priority for assigned field space as other Sudbury Youth Groups. Motion passed 5-0.

Park and Recreation Director Update - Kayla introduced Julie Harrington, the current Program Coordinator, and informed the Commission that Julie will be the Acting Director while she is out on maternity leave. The winter brochure will be going out on Monday. Kayla received a request for field space by a group that plays cricket in Natick. They cannot find a field large enough to play and would be willing to move the team to Sudbury if space is available. Kayla stated she did not think we had a field large enough that was available. Michael Ensley said he would be interested in exploring it, thought about Curtis, but was not sure it was large enough. Davis is also a possibility. The status of the Teen Center was discussed again. Michael recommended reporting quarterly on the status of the Teen Center. He said the Teen Center should be funded by the Town and feels it is important to keep it running. Michael asked Joyce M. to prepare a document for a future meeting that shows financial information and how the Friends of the Teen Center works and assists the Park and Recreation Teen Center program. Joyce stated the Teen Center would be holding more 6th grade events this year to see if that would increase attendance.

Fairbank Task Force - Survey results were discussed at December 6, 2017 meeting. Jim said the survey results would help see what Town residents are willing to pay for a new building. Jim is hoping to get an article on the spring Town warrant for some architectural fees for the new building.

Haskell Playground - Discussion on CPC funds for the new surfaces at the four elementary school playgrounds and the possibility of including the Haskell playground. Dan Nason submitted the Form A on the proposal and that he will forward copies to the Commission. The cost estimate Dan submitted is \$250,000. The plan includes replacing the original pour and play surface and the large tree currently

located in the middle of the playground. He also discussed a plan to get both the new and the surface under the swings on the same replacement cycle. Bobby offered that the CPC would view the playground request a recreation request that could influence future request to CPC for fields. Michael E. said he would like to see the Haskell playground request combined with the school playground request. Lisa K., the rep from the School Committee, said she would follow up to see what the current plan is for the school playgrounds.

Jim Marotta mentioned the Commission had a capital plan and the Haskell playground was not on it. He said the Haskell playground is in compliance where the schools are not in compliance.

Jim does not want the Commission to lose sight of the field needs in Town. Commissioners and Dan discussed the Melone property and the issues associated with it. The thought is that two multipurpose rectangular fields could be built at the site.

Featherland Update - Dan is working towards spring construction for the renovated tennis courts, which will include basketball 1/2 court lines and pickleball lines.

Commission Charter - Michael will send a copy of the current charter out to the Commission members. The Town Manager Act supersedes some of the responsibilities the Commission had in the past. The Town Manager will attend the Park and Recreation Commission in February.

Cutting Field - Commissioners stated they would like to invite Art Reilly, LSRHS Athletic Director, to a meeting. The Commission discussed putting an article together for Cutting Field renovations at for the spring Town Meeting. Jim Marotta stated he would like to use all the field money from the Raytheon development for replacement of the Cutting turf. Mara said she would like to use one-half of the funds for Cutting and the other half for renovation at Davis Field.

The Commission discussed spending \$10,000 to \$15,000 of the Raytheon money on a design study for Cutting turf replacement. The remaining \$210,000 of the Raytheon money would be spent on replacing the turf at Cutting. The Town would be asked to fund the remaining expense.

Dan stated he would have more information on Cutting at the next Commission meeting.

Other Business - Bobby Beagan stated he would contact LSRHS Athletic Director to start discussions on putting lights on the lower fields, turf one and two.

Dan requested closing the fields for the season on Oct 31. It would allow the Park and Grounds crew to perform some maintenance on the fields. The Commission responded it would not be possible because youth soccer runs at least until the first week in November. Dan stated if that was the case, the water may need to be shut off and the bathrooms closed by October 31st in order to avoid frozen water lines.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm