

Virtual Meeting 6:40 pm

September 11, 2023

Commissioners: Mara Huston, Laurie Eliason, Jenn Stone, Bobby Beagan

Guests: Sandra Duran, Combined Facilities Director, Karen Jones, Rebecca Chisholm

Roll Call – Bobby – here, Mara – here, Laurie – here, Jenn – here

**Public Comment** – Craig Blake, 300 Old Lancaster Road, thanked the Recreation Department for supplying portable pickleball nets at the Featherland tennis courts. He expressed concern about the mold on the back tennis/pickleball court at Featherland since it has become very slippery. He has discussed the issue with the Park and Recreation Director and Parks and Grounds Foreman. They are waiting for a break in the weather to scrub the area and attempt to clean the court. Craig asked the Fire Chief for assistance to help get water to the area for the machine the Foreman will be using. The Chief offered to provide the Parks and Grounds staff with any fittings and hoses necessary for the machine. Craig also requested the overhanging trees along the back side of the Featherland tennis courts be trimmed to help the courts dry out faster and stop the mold growth from returning once the courts are cleaned. Laurie will follow up with the Park and Recreation Director regarding these issues.

Lisa Kouchakdjian, Select Board member residing at 30 Meadow Brook Circle, stated the Select Board is holding a Town Forum on October 12, 2023 at 7pm. This will be a hybrid event. She extended an invitation to the Park and Recreation Commission to have one or two of its members attend and be available for questions from residents.

Laurie took a moment to recognize this day in history and said a few words regarding September 11<sup>th</sup> and the tragic events that occurred 22 years ago and honor those who lost their lives that day, including individuals from Sudbury. In addition, to pay our respect to the first responders and emergency personnel who demonstrated extraordinary courage.

**Director Update** – moved to later in the meeting if Dennis is able to join.

**Warrant Article and Fairbank Update** - Sandra Duran, Combined Facility Director, was asked to attend the meeting to share the warrant article she will be putting forth for the Atkinson pool at the Fall Town meetings. The article will request design funds for a new roof, the dehumidification unit, re-grouting of the pool and deck, and redesign of the boiler/chemical room,

This article would design a comprehensive plan of how to deal with the Atkinson Pool in its entirety along with the \$160,000 for the water filtration system received at a previous Town meeting. She will include a structural review due to a significant crack in the wall in the exterior of the boiler room.

Laurie clarified only design funds will be requested for the work needed at the Atkinson Pool with the plan to request funds to complete the work at the spring Town meeting.

Jenn asked for the cost of the design article and the ball park figure for the funds requested at the spring Town meeting. Sandra said she is asking for \$100,000 for design and does not have any firm numbers for the completed work but estimated it would be over 1 million.

Mara asked the funding source and Sandra said it would be free cash. Mara stated it was a conscious decision not to include pool repairs as part of the new Fairbank building to keep the budget down. Sandra said she could not speak to that, but did say the issues with the pool would not get better as it continues to age.

Mara asked if the articles were approved in the fall and spring Town meetings when would the project be started at the pool. Sandra said she would have to work around schedules, but roofs can't be done in the middle of winter. She would work with Dennis to determine the best time and hopefully figure out what works best for the contractor and his programs. Sandra estimated a shutdown of the pool for some of the work to be around 5 weeks. The new roof may also close the pool if it becomes a dusty situation. Sandra stated if work is not done at the pool in a year or two there could be major problems with the pool since it is an aging facility.

Sandra was asked to give an update on the Fairbank building and said they continue to move forward towards occupancy. The Senior Center and School area of the building is ahead of the Recreation department area. The project is tracking approximately 2 weeks later than previously reported. The move is currently scheduled for the week of November 14. Sandra said she is hoping to distribute boxes for the move to the new building in October. Only authorized personnel will be allowed in the buildings during the switch over to the new building. No programs will be run and the pool will be shut down again. Sandra said the recommendation is to resume programs the Monday after Thanksgiving.

Sandra stated the pool locker rooms and gym may not be ready to open until a week or so after the switch to the new building due to the flooring. Laurie questioned how the swim teams would be impacted without locker rooms. Mara said during Covid no one could use the locker rooms so swimmers would just arrive and leave in their bathing suits, and coaches would have to work around the week the pool is shut down.

Mara stated after the move to the new building, the Park and Recreation Department will still be impacted and have to use another temporary entrance while the old building is torn down and the new Park and Recreation entrance is built. In addition, the pool viewing area will also be under construction and not available. The timeline to finish the Recreation Center entrance and the pool viewing area is 2 months. May is the target for the new basketball court, parking and plantings.

**Potential CPC Application** – Laurie discussed a dedicated outdoor space for Recreation including a covered space, such as a pavilion, for summer camp and programming and the need to replicate what Recreation lost due to construction of the new Fairbank Community Center. Laurie stated the Commission has discussed in the past the need for pavilion, not only for summer camp, but for use by residents and users of the new Fairbank Community Center. Dennis and Laurie have been looking at the state bid list for vendors and pavilion costs and discussed the possibility of submitting a CPC request for the funding of a pavilion. The location of the pavilion would be to the left of the building in the area that was designated as Recreation space for summer camp. Sandra Duran, Combined Facilities Director, stated she is receiving many requests and suggestions in regard to the overall exterior of the new building. Her primary concern is that a fully vetted discussion take place in regard to the outside of the new facility before any new permanent structures are built. She would prefer that the new building is occupied for a bit to actually understand the layout, work out the interior needs and continue to understand the exterior opportunities. At that point, design what is really in the best interest of the

community at large, with spaces dedicated for particular programming. She said she is not in a position at this time to support a CPC application for a pavilion.

Laurie clarified the funding of a CPC request would be to build a structure, and the location could still be determined, but the funding would be available when the proper location was chosen. Sandra was concerned since other issues needed to be addresses such as ADA pathways, lighting, water, and security needs, how the facility would be managed. Bobby stated this was not a new request, but something Recreation had before construction of the new building and it was promised in the original plan. Mara agreed and said historically the conversation was that to the left of the building would be Recreation space. Recreation had two basketball courts with lights, a volleyball court with lights, and fenced in area off the pool for summer camp. The new facility will only have one fenced in multisport court with lights where potentially summer camp kids could get dropped off. Laurie did not think it was feasible to plan to drop the summer camp kids off in the multi-sport court since residents may be using the courts for basket ball or pickleball during that time.

Sandra stated she has given the outside design of the new facility consideration and sees the need for some type of structure but does not feel comfortable supporting a CPC application at this time until a comprehensive plan is discussed for the exterior of the building

Laurie expressed concern about the delay in getting a pavilion if a CPC request isn't submitted this year. She said she will take the comments and discuss with the Park and Recreation Director and the Commission for possible submission of an article next year.

Laurie asked Sandra about the potential CPC request for an accessible pathway around Haskell field. Sandra stated she doesn't have plans yet and will need to work with the Park and Recreation Director to see what makes sense in regard to how the field is used. She said any work done would be part of the accessible pathways funds she received last year. Bobby stated he had reached out to Sandra regarding the Haskell pathway and offered to meet with her and Dennis at Haskell field.

**After School Care Discussion** – Karyn Jones, 27 Pendleton Road, asked to speak with the Commission on after school care in Sudbury and the need for additional options for Sudbury residents. Karyn has had discussion with residents and Town staff in regard to sending out a survey that would help to understand the exact after school care needs for Sudbury residents. Karyn said she and other residents have researched the issue and looked at 20 -30 other similar towns and their surveys. She discussed the data gathered the surveys and programs developed. Karyn stated they had created a survey and the plan is to discuss the survey with Sudbury Public School and the Parks and Recreation Department staff with the plan to send the survey out in late October.

Laurie asked the Commission if they would like to provide feedback on the survey. She also thought it would be a good idea for the Recreation Staff to look at the survey as well. Mara said the new Community Center will have more space for this type of program, but staffing and transportation is always an issue

Becky Chisholm, 80 Prides Crossing, said at this point they are trying to launch the survey to see what the true after school care needs are in the Town. Once that data is known, then discussion on how to handle the needs could take place. She agreed the new Community Center has a lot of space and the issues She also agreed transportation is always the issue to get kids from point A to point B.

Commission discussed the need to get the survey out to as many people as possible, perhaps using a Select Board, Town, or school distribution list. A Recreation distribution list was also discussed.

Karyn and Becky will connect with the Recreation Staff to discuss the survey. Bobby suggested the Recreation department could become a sponsor of the survey to basically show residents they are looking for solutions for the community.

Laurie offered the Commissions support, if needed, in reviewing the survey before it is sent out and interpreting the results of the survey to help create programming and resources to serve the community. Laurie invited Karyn and Becky to come back to a Commission meeting to share the results of their survey.

**Fall Fest Update** – Mara stated the Sudbury Foundation grant application was submitted. She responded to a question from the Foundation in relation to the increase in budget from last year’s event. Vendor applications are available for those that want a table at the event. Mara was not sure how many vendors have signed up already. The Recreation staff is reaching out to local vendors for financial support. Food trucks will also be at the event along with other fun activities planned by the Recreation staff. The event will take place on September 23<sup>rd</sup> from noon to five at Haskell Field.

**Review and Approve Minutes** – Mara made a motion to approve the August 7<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes with corrections. Jenn seconded the motion. Vote: Bobby – yes, Jenn – yes, Mara – yes, Laurie – yes. Motion passed in favor 4-0.

**Future Meetings** - Next meeting is tentatively set for October 3<sup>rd</sup>, Laurie will confirm with the Park and Recreation Director to see if he is available on that date. Fall Town meeting date has not been set yet, so the tentative date for the November meeting is the 6<sup>th</sup>.

Motion to adjourn made by Mara. Seconded by Jenn. Vote: Mara – yes, Bobby – yes, Jenn – yes, Laurie – yes. Motion passed in favor 4-0.