

Virtual Meeting 6:32 pm

Aug 7, 2024

Commissioners: Mara Huston, Laurie Eliason, Ben Carmel, Chair, Bobby Beagan, Dennis Mannone - Dir Park and Recreation.

Roll Call: Laurie - here, Mara – here, Bobby - here, Ben - here.

Ben stated the sole focus of the meeting is to discuss potential CPC projects.

**Public Comment:** Karl Fries, 40 Concord Road, introduced himself as a new member of the Finance Committee and the liaison to the Park and Recreation Commission. He is looking forward to supporting the Park and Recreation Commission and learning more about Recreation finances. Mara encouraged him to review past meetings, specifically the May meeting where she presented a view of the finances for Park and Recreation/Atkinson Pool

**CPC Submission Discussion:** Ben set the stage for the CPC discussion. He questioned how much the Commission wanted to take on before the Fields Needs Assessment and Open Space Recreation Plan are completed. Ideas discussed in the past centered on a pavilion at the new Fairbank facility, Haskell improvements and a splash pad near the Smile playground area. Dennis said he is not thinking of taking on any new projects. Smile playground and Feeley Phase 1 still need to be completed and Feeley Phase 2 hasn't even started yet. The DPW Director and another staff member who were involved in the projects no longer work for the Town, so their departure will delay the projects. The Field Needs Assessment and Open Space and Recreation Plan have not been completed yet. The only thing he would be interested in at this time would be a pavilion of some type at the Fairbank facility.

Bobby expressed concern about asking for more funds with unfinished CPC projects. Mara agreed with Bobby's concern and encouraged Dennis to engage with the Commission to use delegates or representatives to assist on CPC projects to help where possible to move the projects along. Laurie advocated for some outdoor facilities in the past, possibly a pavilion outside the new Community Center or Haskell field. She also questioned if CPC funds could be used to install a door in the gym to help with the Terrific Two program. Dennis didn't think the Town was interested in running a licensed preschool program. If the program is licensed, the staff would need to be licensed which would mean higher wages. Laurie suggested adding that topic to the list discussed with the Town Manager in September. Mara suggested the Commission submit a CPC article for a Landscape Architect to review the outside facility space at Fairbank and Haskell, including the space at Haskell currently used for net storage. This would give a big picture view and help develop a plan for best use of the space, such as another basketball court, pavilions, and possibly more parking

Dennis said storage is definitely needed at the new Fairbank facility and the bathrooms and snack shack at Haskell need to be upgraded at some point.

Laurie asked Dennis about the parking at Fairbank. She thought it was a little confusing during camp and expressed concern about the upcoming swim team season. Dennis said the true test on parking will be in the fall with recreation programs, use of the basketball courts and pool users all in operation. In addition, youth sports will start in the fall, so parking at Haskell will be busy after 4pm. He is waiting to see how the new basketball court is used in the fall to see if there is a real need for a second basketball court.

Mara said the current rectangular grass area that abuts Fairbank Circle was designed and spaced out for a second basketball court. A second basketball court could also be built across the street at Haskell. The

current Recreation parking lot was designed in a circular pattern to allow buses to come in one entrance and exit the other after drop off at the center. Bobby mentioned the possibility of the Commission submitting a Town Article for a pavilion instead of submitting a CPC article. He said a pavilion would be a Town amenity, not just used by Recreation.

The Commissioners thought the Open Space and Recreation Plan along with the Fields Needs Assessment will answer many of the questions regarding what is really needed in Town for Recreation.

Commission continued discussion on various CPC ideas including the need for a second basketball court, pavilions at Haskell and Fairbank, splash pad at Haskell, hiring a landscape architect. It was suggested to speak with Sandra Duran, Combined Facilities Director, regarding pavilions outside Fairbank. Dennis cautioned that Sandra might not have authority over outside spaces. He suggested that idea be added to the list of topics discussed at the meeting with the Town Manager. Dennis would also like clarification on who is responsible for what before diving into new projects. He alerted the Commission that one of the Featherland field concessions building has a major roof problem and he is unclear who is responsible to fix it. He has the same concern about the dive well and outdoor basketball courts at Fairbank.

Ben will contact Sandra Duran. Mara suggested that Sandra may be able to give Ben an idea of the cost for a Landscape Architect for the CPC request. Dennis thought Adam Burney, the Planning Director, may be a better contact for that information. Dennis said he and Laurie had contacted pavilion vendors in the past year and that information could be used to gather expenses for the CPC request. Mara informed the deadline for submission has been moved up to September instead of October.

Ben will speak with Sandra Duran or Adam regarding the Landscape Architect. Dennis suggested that Ben ask the Planning Director how much information is needed for the first draft of the CPC request. Laurie will assist Ben and Bobby will help if needed. Laurie will work on the pavilion information. Dennis offered to assist Laurie with rough measurements for a pavilion at Fairbank. The Commission will look at the costs for both the pavilion and landscape architect and be prepared to discuss at the August 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. In addition, the Commission will prepare for the meeting with the Town Manager on September 16<sup>th</sup>.

Motion to adjourn by Bobby. Laurie seconded. Vote: Mara – yes, Laurie – yes, Bobby – yes, Ben – yes. Motion passed in favor - 4-0.