

Virtual Meeting 6:33 pm

Aug 26, 2024

Commissioners: Mara Huston, Laurie Eliason, Ben Carmel, Chair, Bobby Beagan, Granger Atkeson

Dennis Mannone - Dir Park and Recreation. Guests – Sandra Duran, Combined Facilities Director

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

Ben stated the purpose of the meeting is to review CPC submissions and plan for the September meeting with the Town Manager.

Public Comment: Craig Blake, 300 Old Lancaster Road, requested the Commission establish a policy for the use of the new basketball/pickleball courts at the Fairbank Community Center. It is the only multi-use facility with lights in Town and he would like to see a policy before use on the courts becomes an issue.

Chair Comments: Ben stated as a follow up from the past meeting, he spoke with Sandra Duran, Combined Facilities Director and Adam Burney, Planning Director, on costs for a Landscape Architect; an estimate for services is \$75,000. Laurie worked with Dennis in regard to the location and size of a pavilion at the new Fairbank Community Center. Ben sent the Commission a copy of the CPC request Sandra Duran is planning to submit in September regarding facilities outside Fairbank with a strong interest in looking to join forces with the Park and Recreation Commission and submit one article which would include projects on both Haskell Field and the new Fairbank Community Center.

CPC Liaison: Mara nominated Grainger to be the next Park and Recreation liaison to the CPC and he accepted. A motion was made to appoint Grainger Atkeson to be the Park and Recreation Commission liaison to the CPC. Bobby seconded the motion. Vote: Laurie – yes, Bobby – yes, Mara – yes, Grainger – yes. Ben – yes. Vote passed in favor 5-0. Ben will send a letter to the Town Clerk informing of the new appointment.

Plan for Meeting with Town Manager: Ben listed topic for discussion including Fairbank facility use and policies, after-school care ideas, pre-school license for the Terrific Two program, Recreation finances, how best to fund and operate the department, Park and Recreation Commission work, Department ownership – who owns what in terms of authority. Mara suggested prioritizing the list before discussion with the Town Manager and suggested inviting the Finance Committee's Park and Recreation Commission liaison to attend the meeting with the Town Manager.

Ben thought it was important for the Park and Recreation Commission to understand the Town's vision of Recreation. Mara suggested the Commission should define what Recreation is and what value it brings to the Town, such as aiding in better mental health with exercise such as swimming, supporting families with childcare with camps, after school programs, and special events. She suggested two Commission members work on the prioritization list for the Town Manager meeting. After discussion, it was decided that Grainger and Ben will work on the list and send it to the Town Manager before the meeting on September 16th.

CPC Submission Discussion – Laurie presented information she prepared on a Recreation pavilion. She met with Dennis and measured locations for the pavilion at the new Fairbank Center, discussed the proposed pavilion with the Combined Facility Director and also spoke with Premier Park and Play, a

vendor that sells pavilions. She shared the proposed location for a 30' x 60' pavilion and the estimated cost of \$100,000 - \$120,000. Laurie also mentioned the possible need for a second basketball court. Sandra Duran, Combined Facility Director, said she has received many requests for additional needs at the new Community Center. It was her understanding that as the Facility Director, the Fairbank Community Center is under her jurisdiction, while the fields, such as Haskell Field, would be within the Park and Recreation Director's jurisdiction. She heard there was an interest in bringing Haskell and Fairbank together and create a community space for everyone. She added the new facility is not yet completed. Drainage issues still need to be fixed, staffing for security and safety need to be addressed before policies can be created to rent out space by residents and non-residents. She said if there is a CPC article regarding the Fairbank Community Center it should be submitted by the Town Manager's or Facilities office and anything for Haskell could be submitted independently. Sandra wrote a CPC article that she shared with the Commission. The article would be submitted by the Facility Department in conjunction with the Park and Recreation Commission to seek funds to hire a qualified design consultant to create a landscape master plan that would provide a broad framework for long term development of the Fairbank Community Center grounds and adjacent Haskell Field, with an emphasis on community collaboration. The goal would be to design and develop both spaces with a plan that includes architecture, landscape, parking, natural areas that support the Town's master plan framework for open spaces. She said this would be a large project, probably with several phases, and there will be an opportunity to do a few early actions items such as the pavilion. Sandra stated she included the landscape architect and Haskell field in her CPC request after discussing the Recreation CPC request with Laurie. There would be an assessment that would back up the thoughtful process where all ideas were incorporated as much as possible to develop a plan to move forward with a plan for Haskell and the outside space at the new Community Center.

The Commission discussed the pros and cons of collaborating on the CPC submission. Bobby questioned submitting a separate CPC request for Haskell if that would make getting the pavilion quicker. Laurie expressed concern that it could be another two years without a pavilion and summer camp would have to continue to use tents. Sandra said she is planning to move forward with her CPC request for the Community Center and the Commission could submit a separate request.

Mara thought the Park and Recreation Department should be added to the list of collaborators in the CPC request. Sandra agreed that bringing people together would get the community discussion started and work toward a consensus on what is best for the entire space. Sandra added that enrollment goals for the summer programs and Recreation programs should be part of the discussion as that will help define what is needed at the facility. She said it is important to remember the Community Center has three users; Recreation, Senior Center, and the Sudbury School Department. Ben commented that some of the areas such as two basketball courts, volleyball court and camp space was value engineered out. Sandra will check to see if a pavilion was taken out of the original plan. She said there is a need for a comprehensive plan for the outside space. Mara stated those in charge of the new facility promised the Community that Recreation would have what they had in the past and some of the outdoor assets have not been replaced yet. She said a pavilion was discussed, but it didn't get into the budget because early on it was clear there would be budget issues. There was a plan for a second basketball court and the space has already been designed, it just needs funding. Sandra mentioned some of the items could be put in the CPC request as early action items as the project will probably have several phases. It was thought a second basketball court might be better located over at Haskell. Laurie will send Sandra the quotes she has on pavilions for the CPC submission.

Sandra said she would need an actual vote from the Park and Recreation Commission stating they were in support of the CPC submission.

Bobby made a motion that the Park and Recreation Commission support the CPC application that the Combined Facilities Director is planning to submit for Haskell and the new Fairbank Community Center, which will be a collaborative effort with the Park and Recreation Commission and the Park and Recreation Department. The application will include a landscape architect, a second basketball court, and a pavilion. The basketball court and pavilion will be a priority to be completed in the first phase of the project. Laurie seconded the motion. Vote: Granger – yes, Mara – yes, Bobby – yes, Laurie – yes, Ben – yes. Vote: 5-0 in favor.

Sandra will send out a draft of the CPC submission which will be updated to include collaboration with the Park and Recreation Department and the Park and Recreation Commission. She will work with Laurie on the specifics of a pavilion. The application will be submitted and then can be changed or edited at the next meeting before the deadline.

Future Meetings: Next meeting is scheduled for September 16, with the Town Manager. October meeting may be the 1st, Ben will confirm.

Meeting Minutes: Mara made a motion to approve the June minutes as amended. Mara seconded the motion. Vote: Granger – yes, Mara – yes, Bobby – yes, Laurie – yes, Ben – yes. Vote passed in favor 5-0.

Motion to approve the July minutes. Mara seconded the motion. Vote: Granger – yes, Mara – yes, Bobby – yes, Laurie – yes, Ben – yes. Vote passed 5 in favor 5-0.

Motion to adjourn. Grainger seconded the motion. Vote: Laurie – yes, Bobby – yes, Granger – yes, Mara – yes, Ben – yes. Vote 5-0 in favor.

Meeting adjourned 8:35pm.