

Town of Sudbury
Park and Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2013

Present: Commissioners- Todj Gozdeck, Dick Williamson, Bobby Beagan, Paul Griffin, Jim Marotta

Guests: Gerald Quirk, LS School Committee, Sue Pardus, Nancy Kimble, Jeff Dade, FOLSS, Diane Baxter, Sudbury Girls Softball, Andrea Terkelsen- Finance Director/Treasurer

Meeting started at 6:30pm.

Minutes from February 11th, 2013 and December 3rd, 2012 meetings were reviewed and approved with corrections. 3-0.

Turf Field Fund – Andrea Terkelsen, Finance Director/Town Treasurer-Collector, discussed with the Commissioners their desire to set aside funds for replacement of the artificial turf fields. Andrea discussed and explained how the Enterprise Fund and Revolving Fund operate and some drawbacks to what the state municipal laws allow the Town to do. Andrea explained that a portion of the field permit fee cannot be put in the Field Enterprise Fund a turf replacement account. This is due to the fact that funds going into an Enterprise Fund cannot be split. The Enterprise Fund does allow for retained earnings, which can be spent at a later date.

The Commissioners expressed concern that the Town could possibly take the money earmarked for turf replacement and then spend it on something else.

Andrea's recommendation was to create a Special Purpose Stabilization Fund which she explained is like a "rainy day" fund. Municipalities can create many of these if approved by the Board of Selectmen. In order to create one, there has to be a specific, well defined capital project or fixed asset. The Commissioners would have to go before the Board of Selectmen and present their reasoning for requesting the Fund and then the request for the Special Purpose Stabilization Fund article would have to be approved at Town Meeting.

Once the Special Purpose Stabilization Fund for turf replacement is in place, retained earnings from the Field Enterprise Fund could be transferred to the Stabilization Fund. This would have to be voted on as an article at the Town meeting each year.

Andrea said the Town is working on a long range strategic financial plan for the entire town and has heard the concern regarding replacement costs for the artificial turf fields in town. Andrea agreed it was a good idea to get in front of potential costs for replacing the turf fields.

In addition, Andrea stated that other money, such as funds from the Town's General Fund, if available, could be voted on to be placed in the Special Purpose Stabilization Fund. Any donations specified to be used for turf replacement costs would have to be handled differently and could not be placed in the Stabilization Fund.

CPA/LS Softball Field – Gerald Quirk, LS School Committee member, informed the Commissioners that LSRHS will now be responsible for signing contracts for the girls' softball field renovation project and Kevin Rossley will be responsible for managing the renovation project. When the project was first presented, it was thought that the girls' softball organization would be responsible for the project and then gift it over to the high school. It is now considered a school project and because of that Gerald wanted to let the Commissioners know that the LSRHS School Committee is fine with presenting Phase 1 of the project to make the current softball field a safe field with resurfacing and irrigation. It will not support Phase 2 of the project slated for 2016 which includes lights, dugouts, scoreboard etc. or as Gerald described it all the "bells and whistles". This is due to the current funding concerns in Town and the LS school committee is not prepared to support additional funds spent on the softball field at this time when there are other projects that others may feel are higher on the list.

In addition, Gerald reported that the residents of Lincoln will be voting on an article requesting \$50,000 from CPA for renovation of the girls' high school softball field. Lincoln would be part of the inter-municipal agreement for the softball field and is requesting to be part of the inter-municipal agreement for the Community Field. Gerald stated that it would probably only involve a boys and girls U-14 soccer team using the Community Field since most of the other youth groups in Lincoln participate in the Sudbury youth leagues. He stated that in order for the LSRHS School Committee to support the CPA proposals Lincoln would need to be included in the Community Field Inter-municipal agreement.

Paul Griffin gave some background on the Community Field and stated that Lincoln did not express interest in being part of the plan back when the Community Field was being renovated to a turf field with CPA money.

According to Gerald, Lincoln now is requesting to be part of both inter-municipal agreements. Gerald also added that the LSRHS School Committee does not think the use of the high school fields by the user groups is cost neutral to the high school. Paul stated he believes it should be and if it is not, it should be looked into. He commented that the inter-municipal agreement for the Community Field specifically stated a fund would be established to collect all field rental fees. This money was expected to be used for upkeep and any maintenance on the turf field. It was unclear where any money generated by renting out the Community Field has been deposited.

Gerald Quirk made it very clear to the Park and Recreation Commissioners that in order for the LSRHS School Committee to support the CPA proposal Lincoln would have to be added to the past inter-municipal agreement on the community field and the new inter-municipal agreement on the softball field. He was looking for support from the Park and Recreation Commission.

According to Gerald, LSRHS is now responsible for the contracting services for renovation of the high school softball field and Kevin Rossley, Head of Facilities, will be acting as the general contractor for the project. Gerald stated that the school committee was more supportive of the entire project when it appeared that the funds were being gifted by the town and girls' softball was going to sign the contracts.

Then Commissioners stated that any changes to the IMA for the Community Field would have to be discussed with the Board of Selectmen.

The Commissioners reviewed information from the Sudbury Military Support Network requesting to construct an Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom War Memorial in Heritage park which is also home to the September 11 Memorial. **A motion was made that the Park and Recreation Commission support the idea of this new memorial and placing it in Heritage Park. The Commission voted 4-0.** (Bobby Beagan had to leave the meeting before the vote.)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm. The next Park and Recreation Commission meeting was tentatively scheduled for April 22nd at 6:30pm.