

April 25, 2011
Town of Sudbury
Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

Present: Commissioners - Jim Marotta, Dick Williamson, Bobby Beagan
Nancy McShea

Minutes from the last meeting were approved.

Review of Old Business – Commissioners discussed the request for dugouts at Haskell field and stated the big concern was pouring the concrete pads on the field. The thought was that they could always be jack hammered out if the baseball diamond was removed in the future. Nancy stated that there would be no funds available from Park and Recreation for the project.

Nancy stated that any “extra” funds left in the Field Enterprise Fund would be spent on paving the parking lot at Haskell Field.

Nancy reported that she updated Bill Place on the study that would be done on the Melone property with the remaining funds uncovered by Bob Haarde. She told Bill the company will do a conceptual plan and that the town is not bound to the plan.

She also stated to the Commissioners that it is important to get the Melone Property on the Selectmen’s goals for FY12. The 40B issue is still a concern in how it will impact the Melone Property. The Mahoney land was discussed but it was stated that it wasn’t easy to get to and the land wasn’t level.

The objective of getting the Melone Property on the Selectmen’s goals is to have the Selectmen move toward a ruling on the potential of the Melone property as a site for recreational fields and to what extent would be available for fields. If the Melone property is deemed not appropriate for recreational fields have the selectmen take a look at other parcels to see if they are appropriate for field use.

The Commissioners also commented that at some point they may need to take a look at what is really required for the youth groups and how much field time they request.

The school age population is declining, yet the request for field space is increasing.

CPC Representation – The Commissioners discussed the appointment of the next CPC representative from Park and Recreation. A decision was made to invite Georgette Heerwagen to the next Park and Recreation Commission meeting to discuss what is involved in the position.

Ice Rink – FY 12 – Nancy met with Bill Place and Mike Ensley regarding plans for next year. The plan is to use the parking lot again for both ice skating and a separate hockey rink. The plan is to start earlier next year, probably in September and possibly put up some boards the side that will be used as a hockey rink. Mike will look into putting up some portable lights and some fundraising efforts.

70ft Baseball Diamond for Babe Ruth – At this time the Commissioners were not in favor of adding a 70ft diamond to the existing diamonds in town.

Insurance at Fairbank Gym – Bobby Beagan wanted to follow-up on why groups now need insurance to use the Fairbank Gym. Nancy explained that it was due to the liability the town is exposed to if the gym is not being used as a Park and Recreation Program. Nancy stated that she checked with our town counsel and confirmed that insurance coverage is required by all user groups.

Haskell Playground Gate – Nancy reported that the party that donated funds for the Haskell playground informed her that they would donate additional money to add a gate to the existing fence. Nancy has had some requests for a gate due to some parents concerns regarding kids escaping from the playground. Nancy's concern is giving parents a false sense of security and parents will stop watching the kids as long as they are locked in. She is also concerned about kids in wheelchairs being able to get in if there is a gate, and it is supposed to be an open/boundless playground. Nancy will look into the width of the opening to see what can be done and research some other towns to see if they have fences around their playgrounds.

New Business – Nancy informed the Commissioners that Park and Recreation received a \$4,200 universal access garden grant. It will be located on land in the back portion of the Fairbank Community Center.

The Park and Recreation Department also received a \$5,000 MIIA Insurance grant to hire a Risk Management Consultant to review the recreation policies and procedures.

The Fairbank Community Center had solar panels installed on the roof in an effort to save energy and money.

The lights at the Atkinson Pool have been changed out in an effort to conserve energy and money.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Monday, May 16th at 6:30pm