

Town of Sudbury  
Park and Recreation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
June 1, 2015

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

Guests: Mara Huston

Meeting started at 6:30pm.

Minutes from last meeting approved 3-0

**Public Comment:** None

**Pool Rates/Fee Increases.** Mara Huston asked to be on the agenda to discuss the proposed lane rental increase in FY16 and how it will affect her business. Mara stated that the 15% increase in lane rental is significant and combined with the change to round up the usage from 45 minutes to an hour will severely impact her business. She does not want to pass along the fee to her customers. She stated that her lane rental time is when the pool is not busy. She stated she is generating revenue for the pool, bringing in new swimmers, and filling a void when the pool usage is slow. She stated she was unsure if she could sustain her business with the increase.

Nancy explained to the Commissioners that the overall increase in pool rates is due to the increase in the minimum wage. She also explained that she could not make an exception for one vendor, but would have apply changes go all vendors. She also stated that currently Mara is allowed to block off the 1-3 time without paying ahead and is also allowed to cancel her usage by just an email or call without much notice.

The Commissioners stated they felt the biggest issue seemed to be the rounding up to an hour in regard to the price increase. Nancy stated that anything done to change the rate for Mara would have to apply to everyone.

The Commission made a motion to change the FY16 pool fees to reflect a new policy for light usage time from one o'clock to three o'clock during the school year, excluding school vacations and holidays. The charge for lane rental will be by the 15minute increment during this timeframe. There will be no rounding up to the hourly rate fee.

The motion was seconded and approved 4-0.

**Featherland Tennis Courts** – Bobby Beagan discussed his concern with the removal of the Featherland tennis courts. He was told by people that they courts were being used by many town residents. He felt that the Commission should have be notified before the fences and nets were taken down. Bobby was concerned because he didn't want things like this done without the Commissions being notified.

Jim Marotta stated he felt the Commission needed to trust Nancy and Bill Place with their decision to take the courts off line. Nancy stated that it was a safety concern once they tried to fix the fence and it

ending up with a cascading effect. The cracks in the courts were also a safety concern for those playing on the courts.

Bobby stated he has heard from many residents that they would like to see the courts renovated. LSRHS uses the tennis courts for the tennis teams and many residents use the courts daily. Nancy stated that new courts would cost about \$100,000. The possibility of two courts and adding basketball courts on the other side was also discussed.

Replacement courts would have to be proposed in the next capital planning process which will begin in the fall of 2015.

**Field Conditions** – Bobby mentioned his concern regarding the dry spots on Haskell and questioned if the sprinkler heads were working properly. Nancy stated they were working properly and that it was just lack of water.

**Athletic Field Planning** – Jim Marotta stated he wanted everyone to be on the same page for Davis and felt that there was confusion regarding what was going to happen at Davis based upon the recent vote.

His motion was as follows;

The Commission will continue in efforts to address the Town's playing field shortage. In doing so the Commission will continue to pursue a flat level playing surface at Davis Field as well as construction of a suitable parking lot, but has decided to remove the Little League baseball fields from its plans at Davis Field. In order to address the Little League field shortage the Commission a suitable location for the construction and/or renovation of approximately four usable Little League fields. In the interim, the Commission supports all reasonable efforts to maintain playing fields, particularly Little League fields, in playable condition, or better. The Commission looks to address Town's playing field needs as soon as possible.

Dick commented that he felt Davis should be put in the mix of the other fields. The Commissioners discussed this motion the possibility of the need for a traffic study at Davis. Bobby asked if they would still be able to apply for the matching Parc Grant.

The motion received a second and was approved 4-0.

Park and Recreation Charter discussion was postponed.

**Committee assignments** – Mike Ensley is the representative for the Melone Committee, Dick Williamson the representative for the Fairbank Community Center, Bobby Beagan is the representative for the CPA.

Misc – Dick stated that the only thing new about the new Community Center is the discussion of building an entirely new building across the street at Haskell field.

The Open Space and Recreation Plan survey is due June 5<sup>th</sup>.

Nancy commented on reports that the adult soccer teams are drinking after games on Sunday mornings. She received a complaint from a resident. She stated she has already spoken to them and the next step

is to pull their permit. The Commissioners stated they would support her decision if the groups have been warned before.

Bobby Beagan asked if the Park and Recreation Commission should get the field motion/plan for Davis on the Selectmen's agenda. Jim Marotta said yes, that is what they are trying to do, since they don't want to hide anything from the residents concerned about development at Davis.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.