

MINUTES

Recreation Commission Meeting 11/17/16

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 6:12 PM in the Thurston Middle School Cafeteria. Note that the meeting record shall reflect that the Chair, Paul Aries is attending remotely via speakerphone for November 17, 2016 under 940 CMR29.00.

Recreation Commission Attendees: Mitch Katzman, Joyce Cannon, Bob Phillips, Ann Delaney, Elizabeth Phillips and Sheila Moylan. Paul Aries via speakerphone.

Recreation Attendees: Nicole Banks, Taryn Crocker, Jan Parr

Consent Agenda:

- a. Approval of Minutes – Oct 20, 2016. Motion to accept the Consent agenda made by Bob Phillips, seconded by Joyce Cannon; passed unanimously.
- b. Distributed Monthly Report for October 2016 with summer season stats

Commission Member reports: None

Public Comment: None.

Report of the Director:

Staffing Update - Aquatic Specialist - Nicole updated the Commission regarding the resignation of Aquatic Specialist Julie Harrington. Nicole and Sue Perry, Aquatic Manager, are reviewing the job description and will look to expedite the posting and hiring to fill this position. The pool schedule includes operating on a 7 days a week schedule with extended early AM and late evening hours which requires responsible on-call coverage. It is important that this position meets those responsibility parameters. Nicole and Sue are planning to go before the Personnel Board in early December to request job description updates and reclassification.

Business Manager – The hiring process is moving forward with phone interviews having been completed and candidate pool has been reduced to 5 persons whom are now scheduled for in-person interviews. Nicole is planning to bring finalists in to the Recreation Office to meet with staff before final decision.

Courts Public Information Meeting – Nicole outlined the structure for the Public Information Meeting to begin at 7:00 PM with introduction of Recreation Commission members, Recreation staff and Town representatives. Powerpoint presentation on the current courts in town, their condition and several upgrade options including potential lighting of courts will be discussed. Meeting will then be opened up for public comment. (See attached Public Information Meeting notes.)

Next Meeting: December 5 at 7:00 pm. Location is to be determined.

Motion to Adjourn: Ann Delaney motioned at 6:52 PM, seconded by Bob Phillips. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Parr, Recreation Assistant

Public Information Meeting – Courts Refurbishment & Development

Introductions: Nicole Banks welcomed everyone and introduced the Town representatives and Recreation Commission members as follows: Mike Jaillet - Town Administrator, Todd Korchin - DPW, Nora Loughnane - Community & Economic Development, Abby McCabe - Town Planner and Rec Comm members Paul Aries, Joyce Cannon, Bob Phillips, Lynn Connors, Anne Delaney, Mitch Katzman, Sheila Moylan and Elizabeth Phillips. Also attending is Mike Berry from Musco Lighting a current lighting vendor for fields.

Welcome Remarks - Mike Jaillet, Town Administrator attending on behalf of the Westwood Board of Selectmen. Mike framed the meeting as a discussion to focus on tennis and its continued safe play and the consideration of expansion of play stating that this is an informational meeting only, no decisions to be made at this meeting, rather the Town is looking for feedback on the current state of courts in Town and their condition as well as opinion on increased play opportunities. The Recreation Commission will review all input and make any recommendations to the Board of Selectmen for Spring Town meeting. The tennis court that was removed from Morrison Park to allow for the new Fire Dept. sub-station was the only lit court. At the time of demolition, the Town agreed to consider replacement of that court in future. The MBTA East Street bridge project will prevent any change in the Morrison Park layout through completion of the bridge target date 2018. Nora Loughnane explained the MBTA easement situation with regard to Morrison Park. Nora announced the upcoming East Street Bridge 30% Design meeting which is scheduled for Wednesday, November 30th at 7:30pm at the Downey School Cafeteria.

PowerPoint presentation by Recreation Director, Nicole Banks.

Public Comment –

Bob Phillips, Rec Comm member: Recommends that consideration be given to plantings, specifically evergreens, to line courts which can significantly reduce lighting concerns. Example given of Medfield's courts lined with arborvitaes.

Pamela Riley, Sheehan neighbor: Advocates replacing 2 courts at Sheehan, lighting of the courts at WHS and the addition of a backboard.

Jim Dwyer, School Street: Wonders if the decision on the different court projects could be to do all of the proposed re-surfacing and replacements of courts. Also, mentions the need for bathroom access or facilities at courts.

Laurie Bass, Fieldstone Rd: As the JV Tennis Coach for Westwood she is in favor of re-surfacing the WHS courts and lighting all six. Tennis begins in March and all six courts are needed. Last year 2 courts were unplayable for safety reasons. Typically in March, tennis ends at 6pm due to lack of light, lighting the courts would extend practice and match options.

Karen Manor Metzold, Sheehan neighbor: In favor of lighting WHS courts as there are already lit fields and playing surfaces at that location. She feels that the basketball court at Morrison is a more important recreation option than potentially re-building another tennis court there.

Diana Martucci, Sheehan neighbor: Unnecessary to re-store tennis at Morrison, much more important to have any possible additional parking at that location. As for Sheehan, if 2 courts are replaced it will mean extending the court surface area and losing some field space. Suggests the Sheehan court space could possibly be used for floor hockey.

Theresa Mathews, Fearing Dr: Against the replacement of Morrison tennis court, too congested there already. Would like to see a backboard added at Downey but is against lighting at that location.

George Mathews, Fearing Drive: Very concerned about lighting at Downey, feels it will change significantly the feel of the neighborhood.

Jim Irving, Fearing Dr: Would like to see all current courts re-surfaced. Opposed to lighting at Downey, worried about noise and lights. No position on Morrison Park court. Would like to see something done at Sheehan, possibly a street hockey rink like one on East St, Dedham. Would like to know if public will have input on the fields/facilities policies.

Bob Rich, Sheehan neighbor: In favor of re-surface at Downey, no lights. Opposes replacing the Morrison court. In favor of lighting at WHS courts. Not opposed to tennis courts at Sheehan but would be interested in alternate sport use there, possibly a multi-sport surface.

Mathew Baldisarian: In favor of expanding tennis opportunities to encourage youth involvement in tennis, not enough options currently. A single court at Morrison is not best use of any available space there and a single court is very limited programmatically.

Debbie Gallagher, Ash St: Feels strongly that the Morrison tennis court needs to be replaced and that a commitment to replacing it was made prior to the Fire sub-station project.

Kathy Wells, Farm Ln: The WHS tennis team season is just 10 weeks long, feels the WHS courts should be re-surfaced but not interfere with the tennis team season. Most recent repairs were in fact during the season and impacted team play.

Scott Easton: Would like to see tennis as a recreational priority for the town, and creation of a feeder program for the High School team. In favor of re-surfacing WHS courts and lighting them. Would like to see courts re-surfaced at Downey as well. Feels Morrison single court is fiscally inappropriate and would add to over-crowded situation at Morrison Park.

Jim Dwyer, School: Mentioned that there were an additional 6 courts 35 years ago when he moved to town – 2 courts each at Morrison, Sheehan and the Senior Center. The town should be expanding its commitment to tennis.

Tom Resha, Thatcher Street: Lives next to the WHS, and is currently impacted by lights from the Multipurpose field. He maintains that the lights are meant to be off at 9 pm but that is often not the case. He is very much opposed to lighting of courts at WHS and anywhere in town and questions how much tennis is likely to be played after dark.

Mike Berry from Musco Lighting spoke about the technology of the LED lights and the shielded directional lighting fixtures. The poles needed to light WHS courts would be 4 50' poles which would sit 5 – 10 ft. outside the fence. There would be no measurable light from the LED's at 200 ft from the source. The height of the poles is necessary to provide the downcast light system to minimize light spillage.