

Minutes

Deerfield School Field Redevelopment Subcommittee Meeting 1/14/2015

Meeting called to order at 5:07 pm in the Champagne meeting room.

Subcommittee members in attendance: Nicole Banks, Dave Reilly, Mike Griffin, Jan Parr, Ken Aries, Joyce Cannon, Todd Korchin Absent: Brendan Ryan

Also attending: Mike Jaillet, Town Administrator, WYS representatives Kathy Hannon and Tom Alessi

Minutes: After review, Dave motioned to approve the Minutes of December 3 meeting, motion was seconded by Ken and unanimously approved.

Design plan discussion – Kathy Hannon and Tom Alessi, Board members of Westwood Youth Softball (WYS), joined the subcommittee's roundtable discussion of the WYS proposal regarding the redevelopment of the fields. WYS is strongly in favor of a plan which includes one (1) regulation size softball field and two (2) smaller fields. They would like to see backstops and dugouts, preferably covered, at all fields and additionally the installation of two (2) field boxes for storage, one at Field #1 backstop, 1 at Field #2 backstop. Randy Collins, of BETA Engineering, drafted a plan which shows this set-up. Discussion included the previously identified need for fencing at the Northwest corner due to poison ivy on the edge of the woods; backstop fencing would serve that purpose. The plan calls for grass in the infield of Field #1, which is the preference of WYS. WYS is not opposed to the 70 foot conversion option on Field #1 which would allow for the option of use by little league teams in opposite season.

The subcommittee had several questions regarding the current use by WYS and the numbers of participants. WYS was able to provide as part of their proposal, a history of the program's enrollment data from 2010 through 2014. The Deerfield site is the primary location for Grades 1 & 2, which represented 49% of participants in 2014. They prefer to use three fields during permitted field usage to increase playing time. The new Board of Directors for WYS has made a commitment to try to increase numbers and expand recreational softball programs. They are committed to community outreach efforts and plan to host pitch and catch clinics. The improved conditions at Deerfield are a critical part of their plans.

Currently the only regulation softball field available to WYS is located at the Senior Center. However, it is possible that the Morrison field will now be available as an alternate location for games. The proposal also mentions WYS wanting to have the right to post signs on the backstop fencing.

Project scope / Item list – Subcommittee members reviewed and revised the Item List for the project. The consensus of the subcommittee is to have both the 2 softball field layout and the 3 softball field layout priced. It is their expectation that the projected costs associated with the redevelopment will dictate the design. The subcommittee also expressed concern that the 3 field layout will constrain the use of the fields for soccer and that the current WYS enrollment numbers do not warrant the need for a third field. The recommendation they make is to use the 2 softball field layout and maintain the option of adding the third if and when demonstrated increase in numbers warrants it.

Next meeting: Jan 28th at 5:00 pm in the Champagne Meeting Room.

Adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 6:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Jan Parr