

Minutes

Deerfield School Field Redevelopment Subcommittee Meeting 10/29/2014

Meeting convened in the Champagne Meeting Room at 50 Carby Street at 7:05 pm.

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

Minutes: After review, Brendan motioned to accept the Minutes of Oct 22 meeting, seconded by Mike. Unanimously accepted.

Introductions Nicole welcomed the representatives of several different youth sports leagues who joined the Subcommittee at the meeting. After a brief project overview, the floor was opened for input from user groups on their current use at Deerfield and the potential for expanded use. The Subcommittee is seeking input to determine best use of the space given this opportunity to redesign the layout of the fields.

The question was raised about installing artificial turf vs. grass fields. The cost of artificial turf is well beyond the current budget of \$500,000.

Sheila Moylan of Westwood Youth Soccer reported that an approx. 400 1st and 2nd graders are currently using the space at Deerfield in the spring and fall. Program is growing and they are in need of any field space they can get. The current set-up is for mini-fields, 4v4, for the youngest players. Would the Town consider lighting at the Deerfield to extend playing time? The Subcommittee is not considering any lighting at the Deerfield location.

John Foley of Youth Soccer asked about the potential for extending the playing area on the north and west edges of the field and the possibility of fencing to reduce the need to chase balls into the woods where poison ivy is an issue.

Rob Gotti of Youth Baseball suggested 50' – 70' diamond design be considered to allow for future expanded use. The 50'-70' size is a growing trend. Another thought was the potential to include a netting and cable system to screen areas of different uses off for safety reasons. Also suggested adding batting cages.

Kathy Hannon of Youth Softball reports that the 1st & 2nd graders use all three diamonds for approx.. 6 teams Monday thru Thursday in the spring. She will report back on actual participant numbers. The numbers have declined somewhat in recent years. Would like to see a plan that maintains 3 softball diamonds but will discuss the potential reduction of softball fields to two with the Board and report back. Youth softball is looking to continue to have a storage container at the site.

The Subcommittee is hoping to centralize the location of the sport storage containers and will be looking to have the sports groups upgrade the existing containers to enhance accessibility and aesthetics at the site.

Meg Harrington of Youth Lacrosse reports that the program is growing and desperately needs additional space. All levels, 1st – 8th grade, have increased participation. Approx. 60 for practice. Additional fencing along the school parking area was recommended for safety reasons and to protect parked vehicles.

Preliminary Designs Randy Collins of BETA Group Inc Landscape Architecture & Engineering displayed a few conceptual lay-outs for the field areas. The relocation of a paved path from the School to the Library parking lot is under consideration. The path location currently limits the options of field layouts.

Project Timeline:

- Fall 2014 – Town Mtg Nov 17 – Warrant Article
- Winter 2014 - RFP plans, drawings, specifications and bid plans for field development
- Winter 2014 – contractor bids
- Spring 2015 – occupancy permit/contractor selection
- Fall 2015 – field construction
- Spring 2016 - field online for use

Mike Jaillet, Town Administrator, and the Subcommittee strongly encourage the youth sports league coordinators and parents to attend Nov 17 Town Meeting where the warrant article for the initial funds to design the project will be presented. Additionally, there will be a public forum on Nov 12 at 7:00 pm in the Library Meeting Room to discuss options for the fields and solicit feedback from abutters, neighbors and general public.

Adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM. Next meeting scheduled for Nov 12.

Respectfully submitted, Jan Parr