

PLAYING FIELDS TASK FORCE

MINUTES

May 13th, 2022

7:45 am online zoom meeting

Attending:

Voting Members:

Beth Sullivan Woods – Select Board (SB); Linda Chow – School Committee (SC); Bea Bezmalinovic – Natural Resources Commission (NRC); Laurance Stuntz – Recreation Commission (RC) (Chair), Jeff Weschler (BPW), Jerry Nigro – Boys Lacrosse (BL), Ansley Martin – Soccer (S); Kelly Uller – Field Hockey (FH); Rick Kinney - Wellesley Little League (WLL); Amy Munchak – Girls Lacrosse (GL); Maura Renzella – Youth Football (F); Tripp Sheehan – Citizen At Large

Board/Commission staff and other guests:

Matt Chin – RC; John Brown– SC; Kyle Williams – SC; Dave Cohen – BPW; Paul DePhillips – BPW; Tim Bania – BPW; Chris Howard – S; Brandon Schmitt– Natural Resources Commission (NRC)

1. Call to order by Laurance Stuntz at 7:47 am
2. Citizen Speak: none
3. Minutes: Laurance Stuntz added to the Minutes from 4/15/2022 a list of the outside groups that received field permits and made a few other small edits. The group approved a small edit to the March 10th meeting minutes related to the way that Linda Chow described the WHS Track & Field project.

Motion: By Jerry Nigro: To accept the Minutes from the 4/15, 3/25, 3/10 and 2/11/22 meetings as amended.

Seconded: Ansley Martin

Voted in Favor: Beth Sullivan Woods – SB; Linda Chow – SC; Bea Bezmalinovic – NRC; Laurance Stuntz – RC, Jeff Weschler – BPW, Jerry Nigro – BL, Ansley Martin – S, Kelly Uller – FH; Rick Kinney – WLL; Amy Munchak – GL; Maura Renzella – YF; Tripp Sheehan – Citizen At Large

Voted Opposed: None

4. Field Applications

The PFTF reviewed and discussed the following applications

- WHS Boys Corner Club for Monday and Wednesday evenings from 5-8 pm in June, July, and the first week of August for Sprague #2
- Primetime Lacrosse for June 18 and 19 from 8 am to 4:30 pm for the Hunnewell Grass Fields
- High School Junior and Senior Class for a Spikeball tournament at the WHS Track & Field on May 15th from 12 pm to 2 pm.
- Wellesley Youth Football for a Skills Clinic at the WHS Track & Field on August 8th – 11th from 5-8 pm each day
- Wellesley Youth Football for Practice on the Hunnewell Multipurpose field for practice from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm Monday to Friday from August 15th to November 21st, 2022.

Motion: By Kelly Uller: To approve the applications as discussed

Seconded: Bea Bezmalinovic

Voted in Favor: Beth Sullivan Woods – SB; Linda Chow – SC; Bea Bezmalinovic – NRC; Laurance Stuntz – RC, Jeff Weschler – BPW, Jerry Nigro – BL, Ansley Martin – S, Kelly Uller – FH; Rick Kinney – WLL; Amy Munchak – GL; Maura Renzella – YF; Tripp Sheehan – Citizen At Large

Voted Opposed: None

5. Field Finances

The group discussed developing a model for field user fees that meets the following criteria:

- Project the money needed over the next 10 years to:
 - Cover the cost of field maintenance
 - Develop a financial reserve that can be used to fund ½ the cost of replacing the Sprague turf next time it is needed
- Develop proposed revenue models that:
 - Take a holistic view of potential models to cover our costs, including:
 - Provide for equitable assessment of fees to user groups in proportion to their use of the fields
 - Incentivize user groups to request permits that closely align to their actual usage and improve efficiency of use
 - Provide for assessment of fees to outside user groups & for-profit user groups in proportion to the impact of their use of the fields
 - Allow for potential differentials in fees between resident and non-resident groups
 - Support variability if either our costs or revenues prove to be significantly different than projected
- Develop recommended reporting and governance mechanisms for the PFTF to track costs and revenues and adjust as necessary
- Report on the balance of town support and user support for the fields

The Field Optimization Study will provide information to support this model, and Laurance Stuntz, Tripp Sheehan, and Kelly Uller will work to develop the model and will return to the PFTF with updates periodically, with a goal of updating fees for 2023.

6. Field Naming

Kelly Uller distributed an updated field map and the group discussed and agreed to the importance of consistent names and publication of the names. Further updates are required and will be discussed at the next meeting. Issues still to be decided include the reference naming of the WHS turf field and reference naming of the rectangular field that overlaps with the Diane Warren Softball Field.

7. Project updates

- a. WHS Track & Field: Linda Chow informed the PFTF that the School Committee reviewed and approved an updated version of their proposal on May 3rd and presented the updated proposal at the NRC on May 5th. Epsilon Consulting did a new analysis of the environmental impact of the proposed project that was included in the updated proposal. NRC plans to discuss the new proposal at their meeting on May 19th, and to vote on at their meeting on June 2nd.
- b. Lacrosse wall: The ZBA held a hearing about the Wall but they were not clear that they have standing to review or approve updated versions of the Sprague Master Plan. Discussions will continue. Linda discussed some of the considerations related to future changes to projects.
- c. Aqueduct bathrooms: Waiting for the bathroom to be completed
- d. Field Optimization Study: - the NRC has received the signed contract from Weston & Sampson, and are involved in initial planning and scheduling. Goal is to collect data before summer, do

field assessments over the summer, and public hearings in the fall, but those dates are subject to change.

8. General Fields discussion

- Jerry Nigro brought up the question of boards to be possibly placed in Annie Warren Park to enclose small-sided games for smaller children. The group tabled discussion until the next meeting when it will be a full agenda item.

9. Adjourn:

Motion: To adjourn by Maura Renzella at approximately 9:05 am

Seconded: Rick Kinney

Voted in Favor: Beth Sullivan Woods – SB; Linda Chow – SC; Bea Bezmalinovic – NRC; Laurance Stuntz – RC, Jeff Weschler – BPW, Jerry Nigro – BL, Ansley Martin – S, Kelly Uller – FH; Rick Kinney – WLL; Amy Munchak – GL; Maura Renzella – YF; Tripp Sheehan – Citizen At Large

Voted Opposed: None

NEXT MEETING: Tentatively scheduled for June 10th, 7:45 am to 9 am.