

PLAYING FIELDS TASK FORCE

MINUTES

March 25, 2022

7:45 am online zoom meeting

Attending:

Voting Members:

Beth Sullivan Woods – Select Board (SB); Linda Chow – School Committee (SC); Jeff Wechsler – Board of Public Works (BPW), Bea Bezmalinovic – Natural Resources Commission (NRC); Laurance Stuntz – Recreation Commission (RC), Jerry Nigro – Boys Lacrosse (BL), Ansley Martin – Soccer (S); Kelly Uller – Field Hockey (FH); Ann Williams - Wellesley Little League (WLL); Amy Munchak – Girls Lacrosse (GL); Jay McHale– Natural Resources Commission (NRC); 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; Wendy Paul – Advisory; Brandon Schmitt– Natural Resources Commission (NRC)

1. Call to order by Laurance Stuntz at 7:45
2. Citizen Speak: none
3. Minutes: Tabled
4. Field Utilization Study

Brandon Schmitt thanked the PFTF for meeting so quickly the Field Utilization Study (FUS). NRC has requested full funding from CPC for the FUS. A working group of staff and NRC commission has been meeting in February & March. Themes that emerged from meetings have been local town comps, fee schedules and the main concern for the FUS is help schedule and prioritize current fields. The purpose of the meeting is to get more feedback and assist in defining the scope of the FUS.

- Linda Chow stated, prioritization comes from the community internally.
- Laurance Stuntz asked if Weston & Sampson (W&S) facilitated a process like this before. Brandon Schmitt stated that is a major questions that they have not answered.
- Amy Munchak asked if other properties have been considered, like the North 40? Brandon Schmitt stated that other properties have been like North 40, new schools.
- Jerry Nigro asked what the other “peer Towns” have been? Bea Bezmalinovic responded that Weston, Boston, Somerville have been other Towns.
- .Beth Sullivan Woods asked if pocket parks are part of the scope? Bea Bezmalinovic responded that Brown, Ouellet and Perrin are part of scope.
- Tripp Sheehan stated that outside rentals are a huge cost for Soccer, Field Hockey and Lacrosse, is the FUS looking at the “whole universe?” Bea Bezmalinovic responded that previous work will be included in this study “review & validation.”
- Amy Munchak & Jerry Nigro agreed with Tripp Sheehan that outside rentals should be considered in the FUS
- Bea Bezmalinovic added that future forecasting needs more work. Establish decision making criteria for processing recommendations
- Jeff Wechsler asked if Schools and DPW maintenance would be involved and if underserved usergroups like pickleball and use of hardcourts are part of scope? Bea Bezmalinovic stated incorporating feedback on future needs may be necessary through surveys and public meetings. Tripp Sheehan agreed with that process.

- Beth Sullivan Woods inquired if W&S would included casual/pickup use? Be able to audit capacity for random play & local neighbors to use? Bea Bezmalinovic stated that she would need to ask W&S if there is capacity to capture that information

5. General Fields discussion

John Brown commended DPW for the condition of the fields for Athletics to start their spring season.

6. Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn by Linda Chow

Seconded: Amy Munchak

Vote:

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NEXT MEETING: TBA