

PLAYING FIELDS TASK FORCE

MINUTES

July 15th, 2022

7:45 am online zoom meeting

Attending:

Voting Members:

Linda Chow – School Committee (SC); Bea Bezmalinovic – Natural Resources Commission (NRC); Laurance Stuntz – Recreation Commission (RC) (Chair), Jeff Weschler – Board of Public Works (BPW), Jerry Nigro – Boys Lacrosse (BL), Kelly Uller – Field Hockey (FH); Rick Kinney – Wellesley Youth Baseball and Softball (BS); Amy Munchak – Girls Lacrosse (GL); Maura Renzella – Youth Football (F); Ansley Martin – Wellesley United Soccer (S); Tripp Sheehan – Citizen At Large;

Board/Commission staff and other guests:

Matt Chin – RC; John Brown– SC; Kyle Williams – SC; Dave Cohen – BPW; Tim Bania – BPW; Dave Hickey – BPW; Michael Bessette (FH); Wendy Paul – Advisory Board; Charlie Baumeister (S), Christopher Howard (S); Ann Williams (BS); Lara Crawford; Josephine Okun

1. Call to order by Laurance Stuntz at 7:47 am
2. Citizen Speak:
 - a. Lara Crawford, 15 Rice St, expressed her interest in the field financing discussion and commented that the North 40 would be an excellent place to put new fields. In response to Lara's comments, Laurance Stuntz stated that a small group is pulling together financial information and developing recommendations that will be discussed and voted on during the fall in conjunction with information developed through the Field Optimization Study being conducted by Weston & Sampson.
 - b. Josephine Okun, 15 Cottonwood St, commented on importance of transparency around the permits issued by the PFTF and raised some concerns about the Primetime Lacrosse event held on June 18th and 19th.

3. Minutes:

A few minor amendments were made to the minutes.

Motion: By Jerry Nigro: To approve the Minutes from the 6/10 meeting as amended

Seconded: Ansley Martin

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

Voted Opposed: None

4. Field Applications

The PFTF reviewed and discussed the following applications

- Beantown Bombers, for tryouts run at the JV Baseball Diamond (on Hunnewell Field) on August 6th and at Kelly Field on August 13 & 14, all from 8-10 am.
- Game Time Training (Isaiah Davis), for a Basketball clinic run on Mondays July 25th – August 15th from 6-8 pm at the Hunnewell courts and on Thursdays August 18th to September 15th from 5:30-6:45 pm at the Schofield court.

Motion: By Ansley Martin: To approve the applications as discussed with the provision that for Game Time Training a final fee will be determined based on a recommendation from Matt Chin and discussed at the next Playing Fields Task Force meeting since our current regulations do not cover the permitting and use of the Basketball courts.

Seconded: Kelly Uller

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

Abstained: Bea Bezmalinovic – NRC;

Voted Opposed: None

The PFTF reviewed and discussed an application from Terriers to run a Flag Football program at the Diane Warren field on Saturdays September 17th to October 29th from 4-5 pm and on Sundays September 18th to November 6th from 6-8 pm. This application was tabled to first ensure that there are no conflicts with Softball pitching clinics and to make a recommendation about the correct fee to be assessed for the programming.

Finally, the PFTF reviewed and discussed the applications from the Wellesley youth sports leagues in detail. In general, the teams were able to discuss and find times for the permit requests that avoided conflicts. Final details are being ironed out and will be submitted to Matt Chin in the coming weeks for entry into the RecTrac management system. Laurance Stuntz thanked the teams for working together so smoothly to develop a plan of usage, which is difficult given the extremely high demand for field use by Wellesley youth sports, schools, and general public use.

Motion: By Jerry Nigro: To approve the issuance of permits to the youth sports teams as generally submitted, with the provision that Matt will highlight and work with the leagues to resolve any conflicts that arise as the requests are entered into RecTrac.

Seconded: By Maura Renzella

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

a. Major Field Applications

The group discussed developing a special application for major events (generally an event with more than 500 expected participants and spectators). We would plan to develop the application this fall and start to use it for the major spring sporting events that occur in 2023, including the Wellesley United Memorial Day Tournament and potentially the Primetime Lacrosse event on Father's Day. The group brainstormed important elements of such an application including a traffic and trash management plan, coordination with the high school, a designated day-of-event communications contact, publicity plan for local neighbors and vendors, accountability for any event-related damage or issues, and a requirement for the event manager to present the plan to the PFTF at least 3 months before the event.

5. Project updates

- a. WHS Track & Field: NRC approved the School Committee's proposal to install lights for limited high school athletics use and limited additional potential use as approved by the NRC. Fundraising to support the installation of lights, addition of team rooms, and upgrade of the sound system is the next step.
- b. Lacrosse wall: The appeal period for the update to the Sprague Master Plan approved by the ZBA has expired with no appeals. DPW is requesting updated quotes for installation of the wall and hopes to have it installed this summer or fall.
- c. Aqueduct bathrooms: The Aqueduct bathroom has been installed and DPW is coordinating final hookups and site preparation with a goal of opening the bathroom by the end of July. Depending on weather conditions and timing of the site availability, DPW will assess whether to use seed or sod to bring grass back to the site so that the field hockey field will be usable before the start of the fall season. The bathroom will have an automatic locking and unlocking system with key and touchpad code overrides to allow emergency access. Final schedule will be determined, but the expectation is that the bathroom will be available from early morning (6 am) until last usage (9 or 9:30pm) for use by the public.
- d. Lights retrofit at the Warren Field and Tennis Courts. NRC is moving forward with this project that was funded by the CPC and approved by Town Meeting in 2022. They are getting new quotes and coordinating installation plans with a hope of installing this year, but dates are not yet finalized.

6. General Fields discussion

- None

7. Adjourn:

Motion: To adjourn by Kelly Uller at 9:42 am

Seconded: Jerry Nigro

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

Voted Opposed: None

NEXT MEETING: Tentatively scheduled for August 12th, 7:45 am to 9 am.