

Parks and Rec - March 6 2024

Meeting called to order 7:35

In attendance - John Macken, Alix Korpan, Mark McAndrews, Andrew Maria, George Schmidt, Steve Pearce via zoom. Also present was Nick Gemelli representing WARF

Approval of minutes - tabled until next time because I did not send them out (email issues)

Correspondence: Steve - can address later, pertains to WARF requests

JOHN: email from Bobby Rushton (AD) with list of questions, will forward to Steve

Budget: BOS continued meeting to this Friday March 8 at 4:00. Should have things wrapped up by then, any changes will be sent to board. Hopefully soon since budget needs to be sent to BOF next week.

WARF: Nick Gemelli at meeting. 2 topics to vote on, both funded by WARF. No addition to budget just need to be voted on to be sent to BOS for approval.

1. Fence at Ambler to keep balls from rolling down hill, and reposition fields to improve their condition. Also, would like to add a storage 20 x 20. Steve spoke with P and Z and needs to speak with Inland Wetlands.

2. Add 10 foot permanent fence along north side of Lily field. Currently a temporary fence, past life expectancy. Help keep balls in field and out of woods; would benefit both boys and girls soccer and girls lax. P and Z said OK, this is considered replacing existing structure. Funded by WARF and youth groups.

Mark motion to vote, Andrew second, vote is unanimous

Merwin playground update: Installation scheduled to start next Monday should take 1-2 weeks, weather depending. Ahead of schedule as of now.

Discussing plan for announcing / potential ribbon cutting of new playground

Schencks Island playground update: Original site was near river, with all this rain it has become apparent we can't do that. Trying to find location that is not a floodway. Have to clear the area, will come out of the budget for the entire project. \$225K budgeted for Schencks (vs 175K for merwin) and the higher dollar amount was partially due to the difficulty of area (topography, dealing with flood zone, etc.) Will have design team work with what they have.

Staff reports: Set netting for stadium for lax areas, tennis nets soon, getting 2 new lawn mowers ordered in fall 2022. Not much snow this year. New lighting at parking at Comstock. New dial a ride van.

John - with new apartment buildings coming, dial a ride might be stressed, something we should keep an eye on in case we have to add to budget. Steve agreed, and highlighted it would impact all aspects of Parks and Rec. Programming moving along for summer. Camp, July 4th, circus.

RFP for Whitten field improvements is at final stages, should be out next month and shortly after that have a design team on site. Key to the lights will be if transformer can take new lights, if so will happen sooner, potentially by fall. Otherwise not until next year.

Mark - since they are dealing with fiber optics when field is torn up, can we improve wifi coverage? Who does that fall under ? Steve thinks it is a mostly high school that needs better wifi. Lots of logistical challenges.

New lights in Comstock gym. John asked if we go to Musco directly or if we send out for bid. Steve says we go right to Musco (leader in the industry) and they set up the control link app that runs all lights etc.

Member comment:

John: Why did college lax game get moved and why did we not get any correspondence? What was the decision process?

Steve - call from HS that a college was inquiring about the field. Steve did not know about it. Last year got snowed out Feb 28. Steve talked to BOE and Wilton lax as they hoped it wouldn't snow. Steve's concern was field condition / freezing. Did not get the melt we needed. Kids had gone up there and played and snow compacted and froze. Vacation week made things harder; WLA and Steve agreed field could not be cleared by the game. Looked at alternate location. Staples said OK.

Areas of concern for clearing the snow include: Brand new track; would have to push snow to end of field; snow was compacted and it was like ice. If ice adheres to field itself it can pull the turf off. Can damage short term and long term, can't fix until consistently 55 degrees.

Alix - lights at MB? We sent it over to BOS and no action. At time concern over responses from neighbors. Will try again with new proposals from earlier in meeting from WARF

Pickleball courts ? In budget proposal, should know soon, once we get BOS budget for bonded capital.

Public comment: None

Motion to adjourn Alix, second George, unanimous.

