

**Dover Parks and Recreation Commission  
Meeting of March 10, 2010  
Minutes**

P&R Commissioners In Attendance: John Budd, Peter Davies, Rich Oasis, Scott Seidman, Nancy Simms,  
P&R Employees In Attendance: Jessica Cooney, Dave MacTavish  
Others in Attendance: Mike Savage (DSSC – Co-President), Doug Collins (Sherborn Recreation  
Commissioner), Peter Goodall (DSYLL - President), Leo Cavanaugh (DSSC – Field Coordinator), Dave  
Laidman (DSYGLL – Rising President)

**Meeting was called to order at 7:40am.**

**Update on Caryl Park Reconfiguration Project**

- Where we are
- Where we are going

**Role for Dover Sherborn Sports**

- Going forward, P&R will consider assessing higher fees for non-Dover players participating in P&R sponsored programs (football, field hockey, summer playground, Thundercat Sports, etc.).
- P&R will consider increasing the field fees assessed to all Dover Sherborn sports clubs (DSSC, DSYLL, DSGLL, DSYBS) with the request that 100% of the increase amount be paid to Dover P&R for this project. Ultimately, it is up to the clubs to determine how the fees are allocated between the two towns.
- Dover Town Meeting is Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00pm.
  - P&R will be providing free babysitting in the Middle School gym from 7:00pm to 10:00pm. The much loved Peter (“Coach Pete”) Sylvestre will be running this event.
  - Dover will close all sports fields at 6:00pm and has asked Sherborn to do the same.
- P&R will work with the sports clubs to set up a phone tree. Volunteers will be stationed at Town Meeting with voter lists sorted by club. As voters enter, their names will be checked off the list; those who do not show up will be called and asked to come to the meeting.

**Open Discussion**

**Club Funding of Replacement Carpet**

One of the issues in the public domain is the life of the carpet. Manufacturers are guaranteeing their carpets for 8 to 10 years only. Industry experience, however, suggests a longer carpet life of 12 to 14 years. The longest lasting carpet to date in New England is the one at UMass Lowell. It was replaced after 14 years more because the school administration wanted a new look rather than because the carpet was failing, which it was not. The field fee increase could be used to build a carpet replacement fund so that the town would not have to carry that expense 14 years from now.

P&R needs to ask clubs for a set yearly contribution number, not a per player number so that in years where enrollment dips, they don't come up short.

P&R will determine how much money is needed. It will be up to the clubs to determine how to raise it. DSYBS (baseball and softball) will benefit from this project also, so they need to be included in the fundraising efforts.

The town leaders need to know that there is support from groups outside of P&R, such as all the different sports clubs.

### **Two-tiered Fee Structure**

We do not want to be in a position of having our clubs charging different fees depending on the town of residence. It is a strength of each of our programs that we have sister towns. Town officials may try to argue otherwise, but it is important to strength of our clubs that we stay united.

We can go to the selectmen and the other town leaders and say that P&R is charging more for its programs and is also charging the club sports more for its programs so that Dover citizens won't have to pay as much for this project. We will not go to the selectmen and the other town leaders and tell them that non-Dover participants in the Dover-Sherborn sports clubs are paying more than the Dover participants.

Increasing the amount going to this project is okay. I don't think any of us want to create a situation where clubs are charging Sherborn participants more. This would not be helpful to the strength of our clubs. We don't judge people by where they live. We will do what we have to do to get these fields, but we won't split our clubs.

There is agreement within the clubs that there should be no differentiation made between Dover participants and Sherborn participants. However, it is non-club participants, those older residents and/or those without children in the programs who are the voices objecting to tax increases for Dover citizens to benefit Sherborn children.

Another alternative idea would be to ask Sherborn residents to contribute into a gift fund that would augment the amount raised by the town of Dover. Sherborn residents can't share Dover's tax burden, but perhaps contributions would reduce the amount of the tax burden carried by the Dover residents.

Through the sports clubs, Sherborn is already helping to pay for this project.

The field fees now are \$30 per participant which gets split evenly between Dover and Sherborn. If we increase the fees to \$50, for example, Sherborn will still get half of the original \$30 (or \$15), but Dover would get \$15 plus the full extra \$20. The extra \$20 would go into gift fund for carpet replacement.

It would only be the incremental fee from the Dover and Sherborn kids that would go towards the fields. The two towns would still split evenly the non-incremental portion of the field fees. The incremental fee would be to cover the additional and higher quality fields in the town of Dover.

As long as the clubs keep giving Sherborn their \$15, they wouldn't really care what Dover is getting.

### **Private Fundraising**

P&R needs to consider advertising for funding. Look what Needham was able to do with Roche Bros.

The largest amount of money either of these towns has raised was for the Regional School District's purchase of the MSH fields. The amount raised was \$280,000 which is not a lot of money. We don't have big companies in our towns; the fundraising comes from the citizens, and it is an awful lot of work for relatively little money.

There are standard fundraising plans that we can use to get started. Jess has one from a conference she attended. Doug has one from his efforts at Laurel.

### **Learning from Other Towns' Experience**

Wayland is currently working on turf fields. It may be helpful to have discussions with them to learn from their experiences. Concord-Carlisle is another town that recently installed turf.

Wellesley got a long term funding agreement from their sports clubs for their new turf fields. Lots of towns are undertaking or have undertaken similar projects. P&R will talk to them so we don't have to recreate the wheel.

### **Town Meeting Attendance**

We need to set up a phone tree for no shows at Town Meeting. I will get voter lists which we will need to divide by club.

We must be aggressive in getting supporters there. Everybody is busy and has numerous demands on their time, especially the evenings. We need to be aggressively proactive in getting people to Town Meeting and then to the voting booths. A phone bank is a great idea.

Talk to Georgia Derr in Sherborn who spearheaded a similar effort for MSH fields

### **Building Support**

Need to have final drawings to show our club members. The visual will really help people get excited about the project and understand what they are getting for the money.

Jess is working on a web page. It is up now, but it is still evolving and we're not ready to go public with it quite yet. We are also preparing talking points that we will be able to hand out to the clubs and the general public in the near future.

The sports club representatives were asked to notify their members of the next Caryl Park Reconfiguration public meeting which will be March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30pm in the Caryl Community Center Great Room (the old library room).

**Meeting was adjourned at 8:45am.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Nancy Simms, P&R Commission